

## Two alerts on Brixton breakout neglected

By QUENTIN COWDRY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Home Office prison department was given two separate warnings in February that two IRA suspects were planning to get a gun and break out of Brixton jail, yet still failed to prevent their escape, it emerged last night.

One warning came from a prison officer, the other from the police special branch. The IRA was said to have attempted to force the officer to smuggle a gun into the jail, but the plot was foiled when the governor was alerted.

Reg Withers, the governor who has since been replaced, moved the suspects and sent a memorandum to the prison department. The prison governor's association said last night that this was the only warning that Mr Withers had received, and repeated the complaint that he was being made a scapegoat for the escape of Neshan Quinnivan and Pearce McAuley after a chapel service on July 7.

Harry Brett, general secretary of the association, told Channel 4 News that Mr Withers had done all he could to prevent the escape. He moved the officer concerned and transferred the men to a more secure wing, but he could not prevent them going to chapel. He had started to build electronic gates in the works yard used by the men in the breakout, using money from another project because the Home Office would not fund the work.

Mr Withers was said to have been unaware of the special

branch warning, which went direct to the prison department. Ministers and the director of the prison service were also ignorant of the police warning, which said the breakout would happen on a Sunday after chapel, the Home Office said last night. Both warnings were dealt with by Brian Bubbear, head of section one of the directorate of custody (DOC1) the prison department's central headquarters that deals with jail security and emergency planning. It is unclear why the two men were allowed to remain at Brixton, a jail known to have security weaknesses.

One leading administrator said that governors and DOC1 staff received constant warnings of possible escapes and unrest, but he said it was "very surprising" that the tip-off had not been passed to the category A unit.

The emergence of further evidence that the breakout might have been prevented has added to the pressure on Kenneth Baker, who has said he considered resigning over the issue. Yesterday he rejected calls for a public enquiry into the escape, but he is expected within the next few days to name a high-powered figure to lead a full-scale review of prison service administration.

Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, who on Tuesday said he felt Mr Baker was right not to resign, yesterday wrote demanding a full independent public enquiry, saying "crucial questions about the efficiency of the Home Office and your personal conduct" had been raised. "The whole chaos of security in Brixton now deserves the full scrutiny of a public enquiry. Unless the government sets one up, the home secretary's position will become impossible."

Judge Tunim, the chief inspector of prisons, has already published a report into the escape and it was that which led to Mr Withers' early retirement. Mr Baker, who is on holiday in France, is said to be satisfied with Judge Tunim's conclusion that operational rather than policy failures were to blame for the breakout, and he is resisting calls for the full publication of the Tunim report. The home office minister Angela Rumbold said that Mr Baker had made public everything that could be revealed without prejudicing security - and had disclosed more than the judge advised.

As well as facing opposition scorn, Mr Baker is coming under pressure from his own backbenchers. Sir John Wheeler, Conservative chairman of the Commons home affairs committee, last night called the Brixton affair a scandal and said the management of the prison service should be "shaken up from top to bottom". The service could not go on having reports like that from Judge Tunim. "Eventually you have to sort out the structure and management, which is why Mr Baker is preparing a white paper in which he will set out his proposals for action - and he had better get it right."

## Hopes centre on Briton and American while relatives are put on alert

### Hostages' release may be imminent

A SECRET United Nations envoy and a senior Iranian official converged on Damascus yesterday in anticipation of a release of Western hostages from Lebanon.

The Times learnt that Giandomenico Pico, the UN secretary-general's most senior Iran specialist, was due to visit the Syrian capital on a secret mission. The Iranian interior minister, Abdollah Nouri, also arrived unannounced in the city.

In Washington meanwhile, a medical team was ordered to prepare for a possible release, according to the White House spokesman, Martin Fitzwater. "We've notified the families of the six American hostages that we have these rumours, and so there's always the possibility," he said. "We've told them to be prepared to go to Wiesbaden"; this is the American base in Germany

James Bone reports on a secret UN mission as freedom moves intensify and Washington orders a medical team on standby in Germany

where other hostages were taken immediately after their release.

UN sources suggested that one of the freed captives might be carrying a message for Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Islamic Jihad, the fundamentalist group holding Western hostages in Lebanon, promised on Tuesday to send an envoy with "an extremely important message" to the UN secretary-general within 48 hours.

UN sources said that the envoy, expected to be one of the hostages, would not deliver the message at UN headquarters in New York. On Tuesday the Tehran Times, an English-language

newspaper close to the Iranian government, said that a British and an American hostage were expected to be freed by this weekend.

Giandomenico Pico, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's assistant for special assignments, left New York suddenly, and a UN spokeswoman said he had gone to Geneva to prepare the secretary-general's planned visit to the UN office there at the weekend. But UN officials in Geneva said Signor Pico was not expected there until next week, and other sources said he had flown on to the Syrian capital on a secret mission.

Signor Pico made his name at the United Nations by

brokering the ceasefire agreement ending the Iran-Iraq war, the first big success in the organisation's current renaissance. A teetotaler, the Italian is well liked by the similarly abstemious officials in Tehran. Iran particularly admired the way the UN Secretariat spoke out against Iraq's use of chemical weapons during the eight-year war.

Signor Pérez de Cuéllar tried to conceal Signor Pico's whereabouts yesterday, telling journalists he had sent one of his cabinet members to Geneva, "but it is not related to the hostages".

He had still received no word from Islamic Jihad. "I must tell you that I am disappointed because nothing has happened," he said. "I have not heard anything since I got the information yesterday or the day before yesterday."

He confirmed that he had been working behind the scenes to free hostages in Lebanon for years. "I have been working I don't know how many years, six or seven, working quietly in order to obtain the release of all the hostages."

"It is an effort that has lasted for many years, through contacts with all those with an interest in the solution of the problem, but I can't tell you anything specific unfortunately."

In Beirut yesterday, grenades exploded outside a UN office and a previously unknown group said it staged the attack to underline its insistence that Western hostages be swapped for Arab detainees held by Israel. No casualties or damage were reported.



Pico: flying to Damascus on a secret mission

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## Cricket fans face test of stamina

Michael Dynes asks Test spectators not to abuse Underground staff as they arrive at the Oval today

Cricket enthusiasts arriving at the Oval this morning for the final Test between England and the West Indies should think twice before abusing harassed London Underground staff: one of the station's two escalators is out of order.

The match is likely to be a sell-out, and about 20,000 extra passengers are expected to arrive at the station every morning during the five-day Test. Many of them will have to leave the Underground network at Kennington station near by or climb the stairs, because the single escalator cannot cope with such a volume of people arriving at the same time.

The 80th moving staircases were installed in 1926 and completely refurbished in 1964. One of them had to be shut down in February because most of its moving parts were dangerously worn out after running for 18 hours a day, seven days a week, for 27 years: the equivalent of ten times around the world.

The entire escalator mechanism will now have to be dismantled and removed, piece by piece, and replaced by London Underground engineers in an operation expected to take at least four months. As the escalator is so

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Test preview, page 34



Sight screen: spectators at the Fifth Test against the West Indies at The Oval today will be treated to instant replays of the significant action on this giant television screen, sited at mid-wicket on the eastern side of the ground under the famous gasometer. The innovation, long since adopted in Australia, cost Surrey £1.5 million. It has been installed despite the misgivings of umpires, who feel that the replays may undermine their authority in decisions made at controversial moments.

## Police order drug arrest enquiry

By JAMIE DETTMER

WEST YORKSHIRE police yesterday launched an internal enquiry into claims that a detective planted drugs on a pub bouncer during a police raid at Chapeltown, Leeds.

In a statement after an article in yesterday's Times, the deputy chief constable, Paul Whitehouse, said he was appointing a senior officer to investigate allegations connected with a raid last autumn on the Floride Green pub.

It is the second internal enquiry to be launched this month by the force into policing in Chapeltown. Less than a

week ago, a senior officer was appointed to examine the force's slow response to a looting spree in the area.

Twelve arrests were made at the pub last November after more than 100 officers raided it. One of those arrested, Rudi Goddard, the pub's bouncer, has complained that a packet containing three yellow wrappings was planted on him after a struggle with a detective.

Mr Goddard, aged 31, was charged with possessing drugs. He alleges he was released on police bail after agreeing to sign a statement that he had

confiscated the packet minutes before the raid. Mr Goddard tape-recorded a conversation he later had with two officers in which the officers seem to press him to become an informant.

The Crown Prosecution Service confirmed this week that Mr Goddard would not stand trial for any drug-related offences arising from the raid.

Yesterday, Mr Goddard said: "I don't hate the police... I am just not prepared to become an informer for them or have drugs planted on me."

## Marchioness plea to Rifkind

A FINAL appeal has been made to Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, to sanction a public inquiry into the Marchioness tragedy. This follows a move to end a private prosecution for manslaughter.

In a letter to The Times today Michael Napier, who chairs a committee of disaster solicitors, says the move by the DPP would "exacerbate the anger of many victims at a legal system which they perceive as presenting them with more obstacles than answers".

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## Mortar attack by Serb militia ends ceasefire

From TIM JUDAH IN SISAK, CROATIA

HOPES for a lasting ceasefire in Croatia were fading fast yesterday only hours after a 6am truce was supposed to have come into effect. In Zagreb, Milan Brezak, deputy interior minister, announced that four villages had come under attack and in Sisak, a regional command centre 35 miles southeast of Zagreb, Ivan Bobetko, the head of the national guard, claimed the Yugoslav army was regrouping.

Asked whether he believed that a resumption of full-scale fighting between Serbian militiamen and Croatian forces was imminent, Mr Bobetko answered with a resounding "yes". Mr Brezak said that the village of Saborsko, 65 miles southwest of Zagreb, had been subjected to a mortar bombardment, while three other villages were also attacked. "I cannot guarantee that we will not retaliate," he said. His men had succeeded in retaking two villages in the past 24 hours as part of an operation, now suspended.

In the frontline hilltop village of Komarevo, which overlooks Sisak, national guards relaxed but said that they were unhappy about the ceasefire. Mirjana, a woman

volunteer, said: "The terrorists are getting food and more ammunition." Mario, a comrade, said: "We should be doing something, not talking like chickens." Stanislav, another guard, said: "If we withdraw, the Chetniks [Serbian militiamen] will take this village... but they won't hold it for long."

The guards said that Komarevo, which comes under attack most nights, had not been shelled since Tuesday afternoon. They said they believed that this had nothing to do with the ceasefire but that Serbian militiamen in the neighbouring village of Blinski Kut had run out of ammunition.

The risk of sniper fire when crossing the Serbian-Croatian line meant that it was impossible to gauge Serbian reaction to the ceasefire. Seven journalists who had made earlier arrangements to do just that were detained for more than two hours by militiamen from the breakaway Serbian enclave of Krajina. They were released after a computer, several radios, notes and an Italian-registered Audi were confiscated.

1914 card, page 7

## A better title for

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### TODAY IN THE TIMES

#### SHELL SHOCK

You hoped they were extinct but sadly they were just missing. Now the ninja turtles are back on the big screen, with Michaelangelo in the starring role Page 13

#### FAST FOOD

Like the turtles, Graham Johnson, aged 11, loved pizzas - but when he gave them up he stopped being a tearaway. His case focused attention on diet and behaviour Page 11

#### LIT CRIT

Ruth Rendell is among the many writers about to voice their views at the bigger-than-ever Edinburgh book festival. Is the cult of the author getting out of hand? Page 12

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8 pages of top jobs in today's appointments section



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## Ghosts return to haunt the Strangers' Bar

By SHEILA GUNN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GHOSTS of parliaments past could earn the night to haunt their successors around the lobbies and bars of the Palace of Westminster.

Under a sort of life membership scheme, former MPs who have served a total of 15 years in the Commons and receive a parliamentary pension will be designated as "special guests". Once more walking the corridors could come that great parliamentarian Enoch Powell, the former Labour minister and survivor from the Social Democrats' Gang of Four, Shirley Williams, and the former Liberal leader, Jeremy Thorpe.

Their privileges under the scheme include access for life to the Strangers' Bar, the misnomer for the MPs' popular watering hole, and to some of the rather more plebeian canteens scattered around

the palace. The special guests would also be eligible for a photo-identity pass, giving security clearance to Westminster, and access to the members' lobby, the inner sanctum adjoining the Commons chamber where no words exchanged between MPs and journalists are ever officially acknowledged. They would not be able to bring in guests.

The scheme comes out of a private meeting of two small groups of MPs who look at accommodation and catering within the palace. They have won approval for the idea from the Commons services committee, chaired by the leader of the House, John MacGregor. The Commons will be asked to approve it after the summer recess.

Inevitably, those who have clocked up many years at the seat of power, with membership of what Charles Dickens once described as the best gentleman's

club in London, suffer withdrawal symptoms. For several years many MPs have been worried at the treatment of former colleagues. Unless they are former cabinet ministers en route to the House of Lords, the day after the general election they lose all their privileges at Westminster. They must queue up with the public to go through the security controls to enter the central lobby. Without a photo-pass, all other parts of the palace are barred to them.

For fear of opening the doors to a deluge of former MPs, the committee has drawn a line to apply the scheme only to those who have served in at least three parliaments. In the words of one MP yesterday, the scheme will "let in the Enoch Powells but not the Peter Bruinvels". A Commons sub-committee will be able to withdraw the privilege from a particular MP if thought necessary.









## Four-month trial is abandoned after jury-nobbling claim

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A FOUR-MONTH crown court fraud trial was abandoned amid allegations of jury-nobbling yesterday and a retrial was ordered by the judge.

The abrupt end to the case, at Southwark crown court, came more than two days after the jury had retired to consider verdicts.

Information about contact between jurors and defendants was passed to Judge Mota Singh, QC, who ordered an enquiry.

Police are expected to conduct a criminal investigation on behalf of the Lord Chancellor's Department, which administers crown courts. Last night, it remained uncertain whether verdicts already reached will stand, the department said. The case, which began on April 8, is estimated to have already cost £2 million.

The jury had been considering the case, concerning an alleged £250,000 credit card

fraud, since Monday and had spent two nights at an hotel. The jury had found one man guilty of involvement in the fraud and had acquitted two others. It was still considering verdicts on another four. With the jury out of court, Peter Stage, for the prosecution, told the judge: "Concern has arisen over links, contact and communication, between jurors and defendants, and erstwhile defendants, which has come to the notice of the Crown." Mr Stage asked the judge to consider whether "this jury should be discharged from further consideration of the case, even at this late stage".

The judge said: "My view, in the light of everything that has been made known to me, that this jury should be discharged from any further consideration of these matters."

The judge called the jury of seven women and four men — one juror had retired through illness — into court. He told them: "It is with great regret

that I have to inform you that I have decided, after hearing representations from both prosecution and defence counsel, to discharge you from giving any further verdicts in this case and to order a re-trial."

The judge added: "To discharge a jury at any time is a serious matter. It is more so when the decision has to be taken after this length of time. I can assure you the decision has not been taken lightly or without the most serious and anxious consideration."

Jurors looked shocked when the judge told them that, after spending 17 weeks on the trial, they were to be discharged.

In the trial, it had been alleged that members of a gang cheated shops out of goods worth more than £250,000. The gang were accused of rifling through office rubbish and taking credit card numbers from discarded sales vouchers.

The court was told that the gang used these numbers to order, by telephone, designer suits, expensive stereo equipment and jewellery. Goods were delivered to railway stations and mailing addresses to be collected anonymously, the jury was told.

Mr Stage said that the gang had gone for clothes from top designers including Gucci, Boss, Versace and Lacoste. Dozens of stores had been tricked into delivering luxury goods, frequently ordered by members of the gang using a mobile telephone, he said.

The jury retired at 11.30am on Monday. At 5pm, it found one of the defendants guilty of conspiracy to obtain property by deception. The jury had not yet reached a verdict on another charge of theft. It was also still considering verdicts against the other defendants. All denied conspiracy to obtain by deception and an alternative of conspiracy to handle stolen goods.

Two co-defendants were cleared of similar charges on Monday.

On Tuesday the jury had to stop deliberating because one of them was taken ill.



Appealing pair: Koeley Beytall-Heron with Daniel Roberts, aged two, from Sidcup, Kent, who had a kidney transplant earlier this month

## Plea for transplant patients

THE youngest child to have a kidney transplant in Britain attended the launch yesterday of an appeal on behalf of the patients waiting for a similar operation. Koeley Beytall-Heron, now aged 21 months, from Histon, Cambridge, had a kidney graft four months ago (Thomson Prentice writes).

James Wellbeloved, director-general of the National Kidney Research Fund, which is organising the campaign, said at the launch, on the

concourse of Waterloo station, London: "Many patients with kidney failure die each year because a donor kidney for them has not been found."

Gwyn Williams, chairman of the fund, and professor of medicine at Guy's hospital, south London, said advances in research could make every transplant operation successful within ten years by overcoming rejection problems.

At any one time, 4,000 patients in Britain wait and

hope for a transplant. The donor organ has to be a gift from a patient who dies in hospital, because the sale of organs was made illegal two years ago.

However, the trade continues to flourish elsewhere. According to *The Lancet*, more than 2,000 kidneys are taken from live donors in India and sold each year. For a man whose daily wage may be just 30p, £750 for a piece of his body can be irresistible.

## Building hope of a life on Mars

HUMANS may one day be able to live on Mars if the cold and cheerless planet can be transformed, by the biggest engineering programme ever conceived, into an imitation of Earth.

Three American scientists outline in today's issue of *Nature* the steps needed to make the plan possible. Their speculations depend on how much carbon dioxide, nitrogen and water are locked in rocks and ice on the planet's surface. If supplies are sufficient, heating Mars to a more tolerable temperature might be enough to liberate the gases and unfreeze the water, providing an atmosphere that would allow plants to grow and, ultimately, human beings to breathe without space suits.

The project, known as "Terraforming Mars", depends on creating a greenhouse effect on the planet. Discarded aerosol gases rejected on Earth because of their global warming potential could finally come into their own on Mars. Mirrors could be used to reflect more sunlight on to the Martian poles, and soot could be scattered around the poles to blacken the ground and absorb more heat from the Sun.

Christopher McKay and Owen Toon, of NASA's Ames Research Centre in California, and James Kasting, of Pennsylvania State University, say that to melt enough ice and generate sufficient carbon dioxide for plants to survive would take 100 years, and a further 100,000 years for the plants to convert enough carbon dioxide into oxygen to create an atmosphere that was breathable.

In spite of these problems,

Dreams of a green and pleasant Mars are not beyond reality, writes Nigel Hawkes

the three appear serious. A key parameter for habitability of a planet is its average temperature; for Earth this is 15°C, while for Mars it is -60°C. Life as we understand it cannot exist without liquid water, so the priority is to warm Mars. The best way, the three believe, would be to have plenty of carbon dioxide. Plants can survive in an atmosphere dominated by carbon dioxide, provided there are small amounts of oxygen and nitrogen.

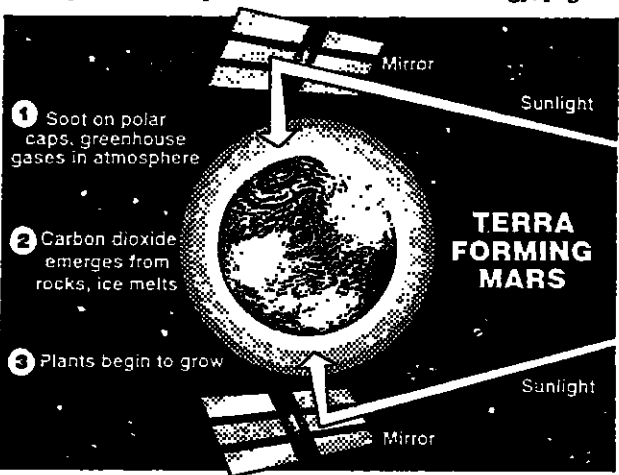
The amounts of CFCs needed would be at least 100 times the million tonnes or so produced annually by the chemical industry on Earth. Ultimately, if plants could be persuaded to grow, they would convert the carbon dioxide into oxygen.

The plan "relies only on processes that have been demonstrated, and in fact are current, on Earth".

The astronauts in the shuttle Atlantis yesterday reported that their view of Earth was obscured by haze, at times so thick it was difficult to see through it.

Astronaut Shannon Lucid speculated that the haze, especially dense over Africa, might have been caused by the oil fires in Kuwait or the volcanic eruptions at Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines.

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## MP's complaint of police smear upheld

A COMPLAINT by Clare Short, the Labour MP, that members of the disgraced West Midlands serious crime squad conducted a smear campaign against her, has been upheld by the Police Complaints Authority (Michael Horsnell writes).

Officers from the disbanded squad leaked confidential information about Ms Short to the *News of the World*, according to a report carried out for the authority by Clive Roche, West Midlands assistant chief constable.

Ms Short complained after information about her private life was published, which she said was gained during a police investigation in 1979 into the unsolved murder of an acquaintance.

She said that the *News of the World* wanted to belittle her because of her campaign

against pictures of topless women in tabloid newspapers, and the serious crime squad was against her because she first raised concern in Parliament about its methods. The squad was disbanded two years ago amid allegations that members fabricated evidence.

An enquiry into its affairs is still being carried out. West Midlands Police said yesterday that it could not comment on individual cases, but a spokeswoman confirmed that a report had been sent to the authority.

Ms Short said she understood individual officers responsible had not been identified, but Mr Roche's enquiry had revealed "clear evidence" that the action was taken by former squad officers. She was not "out to get" individuals, but felt they must be disciplined if identified.

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## Thames boat disaster

## Survivors press for enquiry in final appeal to Rifkind

By LYN JENKINS

SURVIVORS and relatives of the 51 people who lost their lives in the Marchioness pleasure boat disaster have made a final appeal to Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, to sanction a public enquiry into the tragedy.

They say that such a move is necessary to avoid the denial of justice which will occur if the facts surrounding the disaster two years ago are not fully examined. In a letter in *The Times* today, Michael Napier, chairman of the steering committee of the Marchioness disaster solicitors group, says that the appeal has been prompted by the Director of Public Prosecution's expressed intention to take over and stop a private criminal prosecution arising from the tragedy unless substantial admissible new evidence has been collected.

Mr Napier maintains that such a move would "further exacerbate the anger and dissatisfaction of many disaster victims at a legal system which they perceive as presenting them with more obstacles than answers".

In his letter to Mr Rifkind Mr Napier says that if the private prosecution is halted and Paul Chapman, the Westminster coroner, resumes the inquiry to end it formally without holding a full hearing, "the only remaining forum for an open examination and airing of all the evidence and issues surrounding this disaster will be a public enquiry". The Marchioness

disaster is the only one in recent years where the facts have not been heard in public. The inquiry was adjourned pending the trial of Douglas Henderson, master of the dredger Bowbelle, for failure to keep a proper lookout. The judge entered a verdict of not guilty after a second trial ended last week with the jury unable to reach a verdict.

Some of the relatives do not favour bringing a private prosecution for manslaughter against the owners of the Bowbelle and four of the company's senior managers, but all feel that the facts of the tragedy, and issues arising from it, are worthy of a public enquiry.

Solicitors acting for Ivor Glogg, whose wife Ruth was a victim, have been given until tomorrow to hand over their papers to Sir Allan Green, QC, the DPP, so that he can decide whether the case can continue to court, or whether he will take it over or intervene in order to end it.

Louise Christian, Mr

Glogg's solicitor, claims that such a move would be unprecedented. "We have the feeling that there is a reluctance by the authorities in this country to take action against corporate concerns and make them accountable when there has been a disaster," she said. The publication of the transport department's Marine Accident Investigation Branch report into the collision has been delayed until Sir Allan has made a decision, but the relatives say they have little faith in its findings as it was conducted in private.

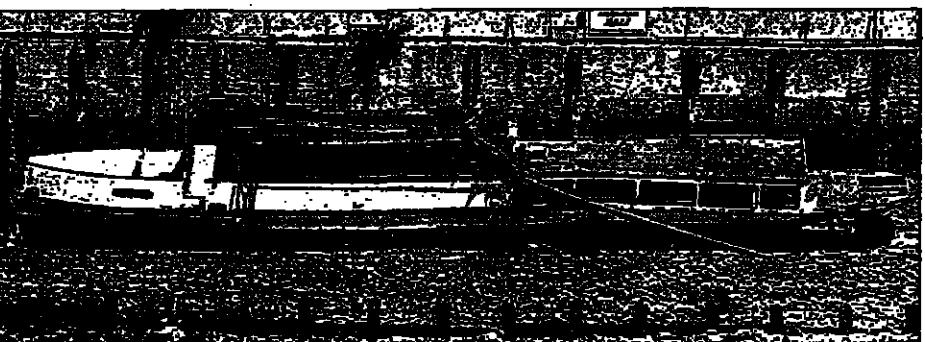
Iain Philpott, vice-chairman of the Marchioness Action Group, who lost his girl friend in the accident, said: "The accident investigation branch report was a way of avoiding the embarrassment of a public enquiry like that after Zebrugga. It is totally unacceptable to leave a disaster of these proportions to an investigation conducted in private."

He said that it had never addressed the wider issues of

safety on the Thames, nor the broader questions of corporate responsibility in accidents. "The report gives only two lines to the question of rescue services being sent to the wrong place, and yet we know from survivors that some who died were alive in the water for 25 minutes. It is only at a public enquiry that we could ask questions about these things."

Mr Philpott said that in spite of the increased use of the Thames for watersports, there was still no full-time rescue boat. "At King's Cross and Clapham, where fewer lives were lost, the facts were aired in public. We simply cannot see how anyone could consider an enquiry held in private, by a branch of the department of transport, when that department both makes the rules and has the job of making sure they are adhered to, can be an adequate alternative to a public enquiry," he said.

Letters, page 15



The Marchioness after the tragedy: "The only one in recent years where the facts have not been heard in public," the chairman of the main solicitors' group says

## Pressure mounts for reform of tragedy enquiries

PRESSURE is mounting for an overhaul of the way in which the legal system handles mass disasters, after a last-ditch call by relatives of victims of the Marchioness tragedy for a public enquiry (Frances Gibb writes).

In each recent disaster — Zebrugga, Hillsborough, the Clapham junction rail crash and the King's Cross fire — different combinations of procedures have come into play. The incidents have illustrated the middle and overlapping surrounding the mechanisms of the public enquiry, the coroner's inquest, the police or

accident board investigation and criminal and civil proceedings, which can conflict with each other.

In the Zebrugga, King's Cross, Clapham and Hillsborough cases, public enquiries were ordered under high court judges. In the case of the Marchioness disaster, there has been no public enquiry and only an internal report (still unpublished) by the Marine Accident Investigation Board. There are other anomalies: in the Zebrugga ferry disaster, criminal proceedings were brought only after the coroner's inquest returned a verdict of unlawful killing. A police

investigation led to the Director of Public Prosecutions bringing corporate manslaughter charges, but the trial collapsed after the judge held that the evidence did not satisfy the legal test of manslaughter.

After the Clapham disaster, however, there was a public enquiry followed by the DPP's decision not to prosecute. The inquest, adjourned pending that decision, resumed and returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

Ministers, aware of the defects, have now set up an interdepartmental group of officials to look at the interplay of public enquiry,

inquest and criminal proceedings. One reform that may emerge is that, in future cases, an inquest should be opened and each relative given an individual hearing, as happened with the Clapham disaster and most of the Marchioness cases.

These proceedings should then be followed by a full public enquiry under a high court judge, which takes on the remaining role of the inquest (the technical details of how the accident happened), and relatives would not then have to wait for an explanation while the criminal process takes its course.

## More seek last resort to win justice

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATE prosecutions launched by individuals are becoming an increasingly common form of legal redress in recent years, among people frustrated or angry with what they see as the shortcomings of the legal system.

In particular, relatives of victims of mass disasters have turned to private prosecution as a last legal resort where the Director of Public Prosecutions has decided against criminal proceedings.

Relatives of victims in the King's Cross fire, Hillsborough and now the Marchioness are among those who have considered private prosecutions, in spite of the obstacles and cost of bringing criminal proceedings without the backing of the Crown Prosecution Service.

Although accounting for fewer than 1 per cent of all proceedings, the increase of private prosecutions is starting to highlight the need for a review of the way the legal system handles such tragedies.

Private prosecutions were practically unheard of in the first half of this century and no statistics are kept of their numbers. However, in a parliamentary answer in January 1990, the Crown Prosecution Service said that it had identified 28 such actions between 1987 and 1989, which the Director of Public Prosecutions had then taken over. In ten of these, the DPP stepped in to discontinue proceedings and the rest were continued.

The DPP has power under the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 to take over a private prosecution and continue or drop it. When deciding if he should step in, he considers the "interests of justice" and the public interest generally, his office said yesterday.

Then, in deciding if the

prosecution should continue, he applies the same criteria as with other prosecutions that fall to him to be approved.

In recent cases, a doctor was cleared in 1986 after being accused in a private prosecution of raping a girl aged eight. That same year, a motor-fitter, Ray Williams, and his wife won a three-year fight to have jailed the man they blamed for the death of their son, aged 19, through drugs. After the in-

cident, the DPP had advised police there was insufficient evidence to bring charges.

At the time of the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure in 1977, the abolition of private prosecutions was discussed. The question lawyers and others are now asking is whether the private prosecution is an adequate remedy in some of these cases.

Michael Napier, lawyer for

relatives of some of the Marchioness victims, said yesterday: "People should not have to be driven to the private prosecution route, with the difficulties it embodies, both in terms of cost and the possibility of the DPP stepping in. It highlights the need for the government working party which is looking at this whole area to come up with recommendations very quickly."

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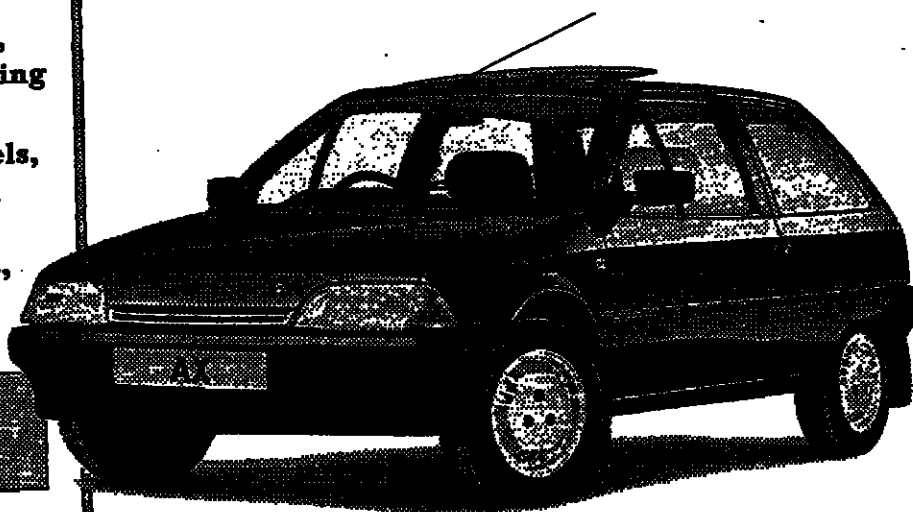
MODEL	PRICE	CITROËN ADVANTAGE
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Fiesta 1.0 Popular	£6,590	
AX Memphis	£7,125	Sunroof, tinted glass, 5-speed gearbox, stereo radio/cassette
Nova 1.2 Merit	£7,395	
AX 11TZK	£7,745	Sunroof, tinted glass, electric windows, central locking
Nova 1.2 Luxe	£7,910	
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Fiesta 1.6S	£9,074	

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## Cinemas haul back crowds lost in video boom years

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE video boom has peaked and the cinema is winning back its audiences, according to a survey published today.

While the rental of video cassettes is still growing — at a rate of 39 per cent between 1985 and 1990 — cinema audiences increased in numbers by 85 per cent between 1984 and 1990, the Policy Studies Institute's Cultural Trends survey says.

Andrew Feist, co-author of the report, said: "The figures show that video loans peaked in 1989 at 376 million, compared with 270 million in 1985 and 374 million in 1990. Cinema audiences increased from 53 million in 1984 to 96 million in 1989 and continued the upward trend, though at a slower rate, with 98 million last year."

The report says that between 1979 and 1984, the amount spent by cinema-goers dropped from £130 million to £104 million in 1984. Since then, helped by the growth of multi-screen cinemas, spending rose to £220 million last year.

Audiences have also seen ticket prices rise by 63 per cent since 1984 while the cost of hiring a video cassette has hardly changed.

"What we might be seeing is sophistication of the video market, with users hiring less than they did when they acquired their first recorders," Mr Feist said.

Will Stevenson, director of the British Film Institute, said: "This is very encouraging for those who invest in cinema in this country." He added, however, that 90 to 95 per cent of what audiences were watching was of American origin.

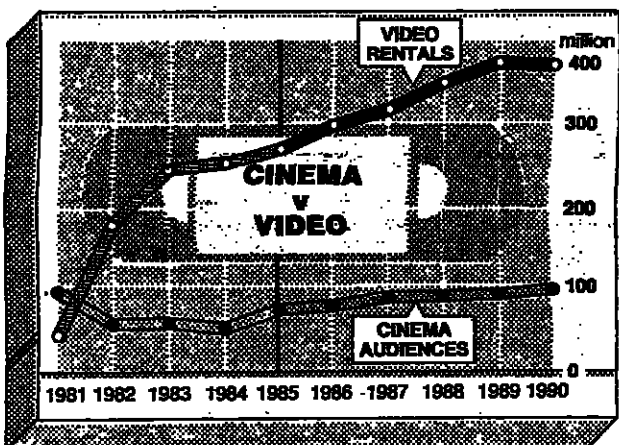
While public spending on videos more than doubled between 1979 and 1990, according to the report, an index based on the shorter period of 1983-90 shows that while video rental rose by 9 percentage points, cinema admissions went up by 26 points.

On the same base, the most dramatic increase has been in the purchase of audio recording, which rose by 130 per cent in the 1983-90 period. In terms of cash, spending on records, tapes and compact discs more than tripled from £499 million in 1979 to £1.7 billion in 1990.

Spending on books remained steady, increasing by just two index points, while newspapers, which enjoyed a small peak in 1987, returned to the 1983 base figure in 1989 and have remained there. Spending on magazines rose by 17 points.

Taken as a percentage of all consumer spending, expenditure on culture by British audiences rose from 0.88 per cent in 1980 to 1.22 per cent, while on recreation and entertainment in general it has remained almost constant at an average 5.5 per cent over the decade.

The report's analysis of government spending on culture reveals that the ministry of defence's expenditure on military bands in 1989-90 was £55.2 million, £3.6 million more than the Office of Arts and Libraries's capital spending on museums, galleries and buildings such as the South Bank Centre, and £1.3 million more than the combined revenue grants to the British Museum, the National Gallery and the Science Museum.



## Radio listeners stay loyal, survey says

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LISTENERS' choice has expanded dramatically over the past five years with the proliferation of commercial radio stations, but people are generally remaining loyal to one preferred station, the Cultural Trends Survey has found.

The total number of independent radio stations on air throughout Britain increased from 49 to 78 between 1986 and 1990, offering listeners a total of 107 services with the advent of split frequencies. But unlike television viewers, who habitually switch between channels, radio listeners, on average, listen only to 1.7 different services each week.

In spite of ever-widening choice for listeners, the total number of regular radio listeners in Britain — those who

listen for at least half an hour a week — has remained static at around 40 million since 1985. "There are clear signs that radio listening in the UK may already have reached saturation levels," the survey said.

While the total output of both BBC and commercial radio increased by 65 per cent from 1986 to 1990, the average time per week spent listening to the radio increased by only 17 per cent, from 8.7 hours to 10.2 hours.

Meanwhile, the BBC's share of radio listening fell below 60 per cent for the first time, to 59.6 per cent in the final quarter of 1990, while independent radio increased its share to 40.4 per cent. Stewart Francis, AIRC chairman, predicts that commercial radio will increase its overall audience to 50 per cent soon.

## Disputed jackpot is frozen by judge

A JUDGE yesterday froze a jackpot lottery win of £1.1 million (£900,000) over which two Northern Ireland housewives are arguing.

Theresa Magee, aged 53, broke open the champagne after the winning numbers came up in the Irish republic's draw last Saturday night, but celebrations turned to heartbreak as she and her friend, Mary Byrne, fell out over splitting the money.

In Dublin yesterday, Frank Murphy, a High Court judge, ordered the Irish National Lottery not to pay out to either woman. He indicated that Mrs Magee was entitled to half the money, which may be paid out tomorrow. However, a full hearing must be held in the autumn to decide whether Mrs Byrne gets the other half.

The agreement between the two women, from Newry Co Down, collapsed after the draw was televised. Live. Although Mrs Byrne said that her friend called out most, if

not all, of the six winning numbers as they shared a cup of tea the day before the draw, she also said that she paid for the £1 ticket and that she was entitled to half the winnings. Lottery officials decided not to pay any money after Mrs Byrne travelled to Dublin on Tuesday to tell them of the dispute.

Yesterday, after a five-minute hearing, Mrs Byrne left court without comment. Mrs Magee was not in court.

The judge suggested that, in the meantime, the two women should try to agree on where to invest the £500,000 at stake. The Irish National Lottery involves players selecting six numbers from 1 to 36. Each panel costs 50p and any number may be bought. The winner must have all six numbers on one panel. Ticket sales last year were nearly £1.7 billion, with £1.1 million paid out in prizes and £1.54 million raised for the arts, sports and other areas.

## Stepping out in style in pursuit of health and fitness

WALKING is good for you. The government says it is, the medics who measure the quality of every third and gush in the cardio-vascular system agree and the Ramblers' Association has long insisted on it.

It is the easiest first step towards losing weight and the cheapest route to fitness, gentler on the knee joints than jogging and less complicated than swimming, cycling or pumping iron. Hardly surprising, then, that an industry has developed around the simple art of placing one foot in front of the other.

Trekking across mountainous country can be dangerous and good equipment is essential for safety. However, elegance was not something that worried the late Alfred Wainwright, author of walking guides. Baggy trousers and a gabardine jacket were all he needed, along with a woolly hat for winter and a handkerchief — knotted at the corners — for summer. Plus, of course, a good pair of comfortable boots.

Study the early Everesters in their tailored Norfolk jackets, tightly buttoned, and their gaiters, which were the best gear available at the time. How different, though, from the modern climber, in quilted coat and hi-tech windproofs. The

improvement is shared with the ordinary ramblers, who are bombarded with choices. The aware walker is less likely these days simply to pull out an extra jumper if the day looks doubtful.

Clothing for the outdoors is designed by specialists. Artificial materials with pile fibres and "breathing" fabrics release the sweat and condensation but do not let in the rain. That "shell" approach to clothing, with warm, absorbent inner layers protected by a windproof outer, keeps a working body at an even temperature and returns good performance for light weight.

Today's aware walker sensibly dressed for a day out on the hills in uncertain weather will look very different from his early counterpart. However, the effort a human body requires to climb a steep hill remains unchanged. No-one has yet found a way around that.

Equipment and costs: Wool hat £11; Polarrek vest (reduces the clammy feeling of sweat) £9.99; Karrimor jacket in Polarite artificial "fleece" £59.99; windproof outer shell in Climaguard, jacket £45, trousers £35.95; Karrimor Baltoro Gore-tex shell suit (protects against wind, rain and snow) — jacket £150, salopettes £145; Ron Hill pertex jacket £52.99; Karrimor trousers £39.99; lightweight boots by Merrell in Gore-tex waterproof £80; leather Brasher boots £79.99; wool gloves £4.99; artificial fibre socks £5.15; thermos flask in unbreakable aluminium £34.80; compass £13.99; bivouac bag and emergency first-aid kit from £8; Ordnance Survey map (Landranger series) £3.70; area guide books around £8; lightweight binoculars from £45; Rucksack (Karrimor Condor is a Design Centre award winner) — £174.99; Weather Station by Casio contained in a wrist watch provides a check on time, altitude and changes in barometric pressure — £65; survival bag £1.99.

Leading article, page 15

Wainwright: walking outfit of baggy trousers and gabardine jacket, plus a pair of comfortable boots

WHAT TO WEAR WHEN WALKING

Karrimor jacket in Polarite "fleece" £59.99

Ron Hill pertex jacket £52.99

Karrimor Condor rucksack £174.99

Compass £13.99

Wool gloves £4.99

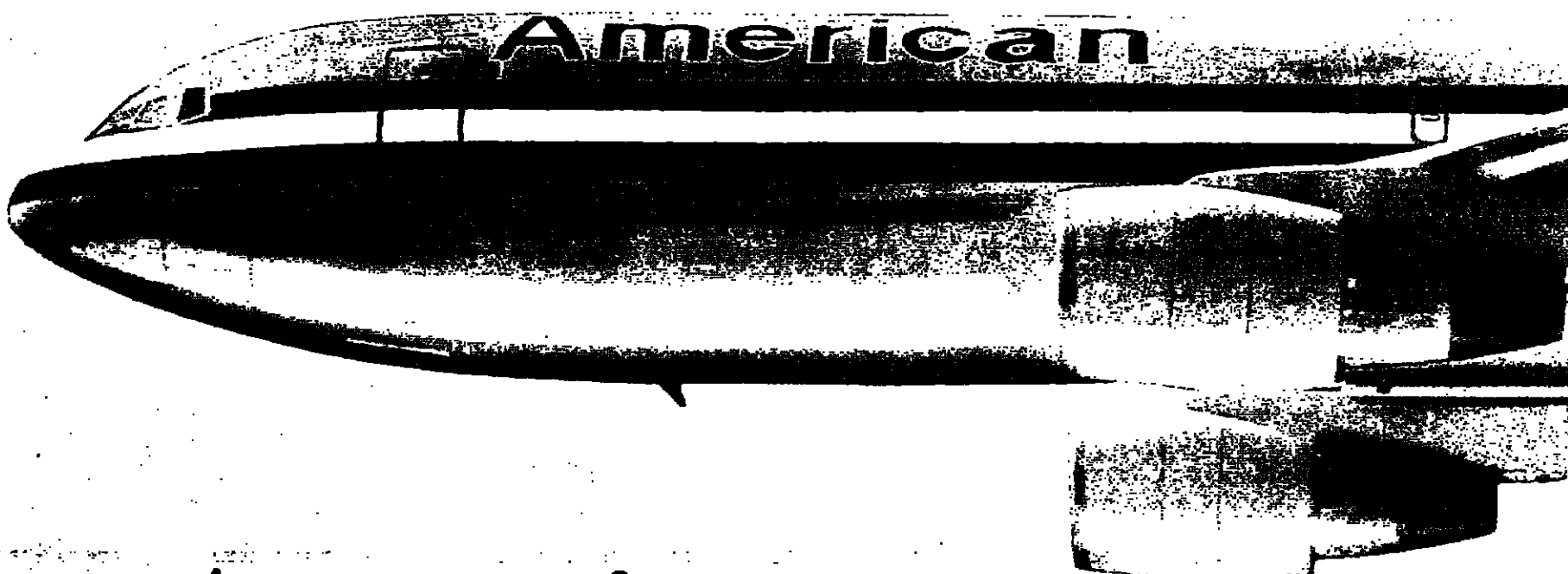
Ordnance Survey map (Landranger series) £3.70

Survival bag £1.99

Karrimor trousers £39.99

Leather Brasher boots £79.99

Source: Blacks Camping and Leisure



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## Labour's plan to ban fox and deer hunting is unveiled

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE hunting of foxes, deer and hares with hounds could be banned under proposals announced by Labour yesterday, as part of a package of measures to prevent cruelty to wild animals.

The party intends to make it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to a wild mammal, but endorses the shooting of game as an effective way of controlling the wildlife population.

Under the proposals, parliament would be asked, on a free vote, to ban the hunting of foxes, deer and other mammals with hounds. If MPs failed to back the ban, it would be left to the courts to decide whether fox hunting was an offence under the new bill.

However, the proposals have been attacked by the hunting, shooting and fishing lobby, who have accused Labour of playing politics with the countryside vote and want the party to leave participation in country sports a matter for each individual's conscience.

Under the plans, dogs could be used to flush and retrieve game and to take rabbits and rodents, while fishing and the shooting of game birds would not be affected by the proposals.

## MP backs waste site enquiry

By RAY CLANCY

BRYAN GAUL, the shadow environment secretary, yesterday backed a council's call for a public enquiry into plans to build a waste incinerator at Belvedere, southeast London.

After visiting the site, Mr Gaul highlighted the environmental damage that could affect the area, especially an increase in traffic and the impact on the health of the local community.

There is concern that at least six incinerators are planned for east London. "East and southeast London already have poor air quality," Mr Gaul said. "Young people in Belvedere and Thamesmead suffer from more than their fair share of respiratory diseases such as asthma. It cannot be right that six new plants should be built so close together."

The developers, Cory Environmental, have submitted outline plans for a domestic waste incinerator to burn 1.5 million tonnes of waste a year. A report prepared for Bexley council has described the incinerator as potentially one of the largest in the world, burning over half of London's waste. Although the site is in an industrial zone, councillors are worried about the impact it will have on nearby communities.

Colin Hargrave, leader of the Labour opposition group on Bexley council, said that a public enquiry was the only way to assess fully the impact on the environment.

The issues were discussed last night at a meeting of the council's town planning committee.

posed legislation. Labour also intends to permit the licensed use of dogs to hunt foxes where economic damage is being done and in areas of open moorland where other methods of control were ineffective.

Labour's document, *Wildlife in the Countryside*, said: "Hunting live quarry with hounds, terrier work and hare coursing would be the main activities affected by the specific offences proposed in this bill. The primary purpose of much hunting is not to kill the hunted animal as quickly as possible but to prolong the chase and thereby give maximum 'sport' to the hunt follower."

Under the proposals, the law against badger baiting would be toughened and the legislation on the types of weapons permitted for deer killing reviewed. Labour would also consider taking action to ensure a more balanced cull of red deer in Scotland. The party would continue to allow, under licence, the shooting and live trapping of mink, and would also consider widening the offence of placing poisons in the countryside.

Ron Davies, a Labour agriculture spokesman, said that the proposals were an improvement on the "flawed policy" of promising to ban organised hunting except in National Parks, on which the party fought the 1987 general election. He rejected claims that Labour's policy was motivated by class prejudice and a failure to understand the need to control pests, and said that the party's opposition to hunting was based on the cruelty involved.

The proposed ban on hunting with hounds met strong protests from the country sports lobby. Michael Colvin, chairman of the Council for Country Sports, and Tory MP for Romsey and Waterside, said that it was an attack on all sport. "Over five million country sportsmen know only too well that they have much to conserve and therefore must stand together."

"Labour will regret playing political games with the countryside vote. No-one is going to buy a policy which says that it is morally wrong to hunt a fox but quite all right to snare one, or wrong to course a hare but fine to shoot at one," Mr Colvin said.

John Swift, director of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, said that his organisation would oppose any attempt to ban hunting with hounds, saying it was "no different from all field sports in being a traditional activity which individuals should be free to pursue." He added: "It brings significant economic benefits and is a part of the fabric of rural Britain."

Dr Arthur Lindley, head of the wildlife department of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said: "We are pleased that Labour is introducing these initiatives, as the RSPCA is opposed to the hunting of animals with dogs and would like to see legislation to achieve that end."

## Organist dismissed in rehearsal tussle

A CHURCH of England vicar sacked his organist after a disagreement over where the village church choir should hold its weekly practice, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Kenneth Masters, vicar of St Peter and St Paul's church at Rustington, West Sussex, ordered rehearsals to be switched to the church from the home of Richard Woods, the choir-master, saying that it would improve the ethos if the choir rehearsed in the same place where it would perform at services.

The tribunal in Brighton was told that Mr Woods, aged 33, was adamant that it was safer for choirboys to meet at his house, particularly on dark winter evenings, because of the dangers from traffic in the village and the risk of them being accosted. When he refused to move on the issue he was sacked.

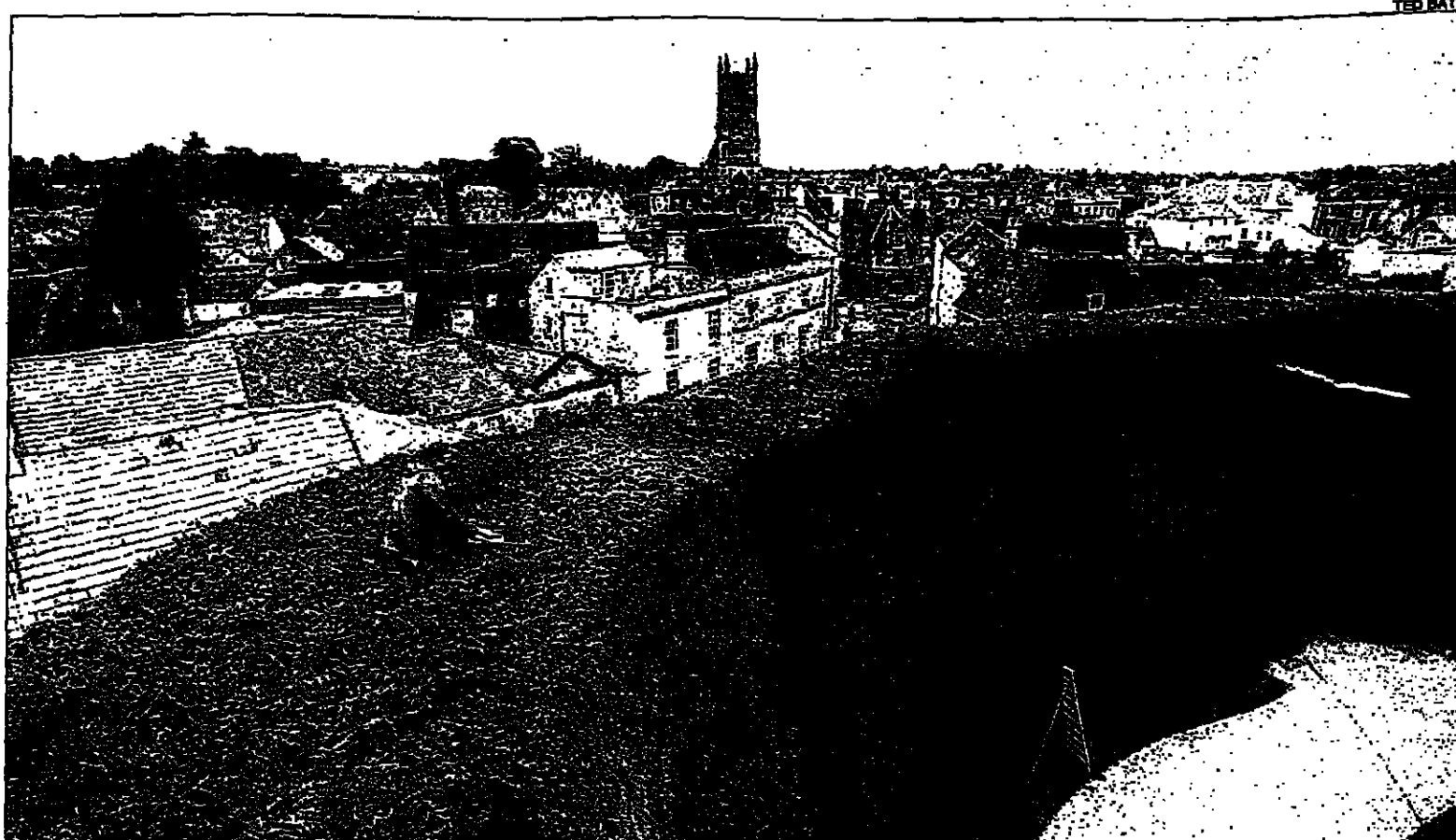
In a letter of dismissal, read to the tribunal, the vicar praised the work of Mr Woods and expressed sadness that they could not agree over the venue for choir practice.

Mr Masters told the tribunal that the choir began going to Mr Woods's home after the choir-master was injured in an accident, but that he felt uneasy when it continued. He said he did not agree that youngsters would be more at risk by practising at the church. "I thought he was vastly exaggerating the dangers of going about in Rustington. It is one of the most peaceful places one could find." The church was better lit than the choir-master's home, and the local police crime prevention officer had given it his approval.

Mr Masters said that the switch to the church was welcomed by choir members. The choir had 11 boys and nine men members three years ago, but the number of boys had fallen to two or three. This, he said, was in line with a national trend in the face of many other attractions for youngsters.

There had been a proposal to invite girls to join, but this had been strongly opposed by the parochial church council. Mr Masters said he always hoped he could persuade Mr Woods to agree to hold practice in the church. "There was a lot of sadness on both sides, but I told him the only way out was dismissal."

The hearing continues today.



Trimmed and tidied: the largest and oldest yew hedge in the world, at Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire, home of Lord Apsley, is given its annual trim, which takes ten days to carry out. The hedge, planted in 1720 by the first Earl Bathurst, is now 40ft high and 170yds long

## Holidays in the garden as recession bites

MORE and more hard-pressed Britons are staying at home to spend holidays in their own gardens rather than on foreign package tours or visits to British seaside resorts and tourist attractions.

According to a report by the British Tourist Authority published yesterday, the number of trips taken within the UK fell by 13 per cent in 1990 compared with 1989 while the number of foreign holidays also dropped, but by only 7 per cent.

The English, rather than the Welsh, Scots or Irish, are the most wedded to their holiday and provide 87 per cent of all trips to British destinations. That, the report says, shows

Stay with friends, travel in August by car and spend an average of £25 a head every night. Harvey Elliott draws a profile of the British tourist

"the disproportionate degree to which England's population provides tourism volume and value for the UK as a whole and in particular for mainland Great Britain."

Almost half of those who do take a trip within their own country - 83 per cent of the total - stay with friends or relatives, travel mainly in August by car and spend an average of £25 a head per night, a quarter of it eating out

and drinking. Although the recession was already beginning to take its toll last year and is almost certain to have cut the number of trips still further this year, British tourists still spent £22 billion last year at home and abroad.

The definition of "tourist" is, however, rather wide and takes in business and work trips which include at least one night away from home. The number of those, the

report says, fell by 20 per cent last year compared with 1989. Whatever the reason for the trip, once they have arrived at their destination Britons like to be active, according to the report. Half indulge in some form of physical activity with hiking, hillwalking or ambling the favourite pastimes, closely followed by swimming and visiting heritage sites.

The West Country remains the favourite British destination, attracting 17 per cent of all trips and 23 per cent of the total spending.

The UK's largest travel agency has begun offering discounts on next summer's holidays, a month before tour operators are due to launch

next year's packaged holidays. Lunn Poly's 500 holiday shops will offer a maximum of £150 off next year's brochure prices of £2,000 or more, and at least £10 off any vacation booked - provided consumers buy insurance through the agent, and are purchasing an overseas product.

The move has astounded some in an industry which is in the throes of selling and discounting this year's winter holidays, and has some of this season's summer packages still to go. However, Peter Rothwell, marketing director, says the firm has made the move because the many crises the travel industry has suffered this year have meant that some people have not been able to get away on their annual break.

Competitors in the hard-fought, low margin, travel trade are split in their views of Lunn Poly's move. Some see it as the first steps in what could become a ruthless all-year-round discounting battle.

The number of package holidays due to be sold next year are predicted to increase by up to 10 per cent, after having declined by at least 10 per cent annually since 1988. Lunn Poly admits that it is trying to increase its share of this market and sees discounting as the best tool.

Mr Rothwell also points out that the time is ideal for his company since other travel agencies are in a state of flux. Only last week northern-based A. T. Mays bought W. H. Smith's travel agency businesses and will be busy converting these newly-acquired outlets. The second and third largest travel agencies, Thomas Cook and Pickfords, have also been affected by reports that they are up for sale.

Pickfords Travel has pointed out that Lunn Poly's discounted offers are less than those of previous years and may be a signal to the industry as a whole to keep money-off deals down.

BA limps in, page 21

## Car crash victims had smoked cannabis

Two young couples killed in a blazing car had been smoking cannabis before they crashed, an inquest in Chelmsford, Essex, was told yesterday.

Dr Patrick Toseland, a toxicologist, said that he could not say whether that had impaired the ability of the driver, Ian Peacock, aged 22, of Writtle, Essex, who died when his car went out of control at Howe Green, Essex.

Also killed were Samantha Smith, 20, of Danbury, Darren Jarvis, 23, and Karen Sugars, 18, both of Writtle. Dr Malcolm Weir, the Essex coroner, returning accidental death verdicts, said there was no doubt that the accident had been caused by excessive speed and an error of judgment. "Although all four had levels of cannabis in their blood it is not possible for this enquiry to say this had any effect on the accident," he added.

## Council raids

Fraud squad detectives carried out a series of dawn raids on the homes of councillors and council officials alleged to be involved in land deals and building development in Preston, Lancashire, over the past ten years. Documents were also taken from Preston town hall.

## Male victory

Mark Broughton, aged 21, of Witney, Oxfordshire, who was told that a job as an office clerk he applied for with a shipping company was for a woman, has won £750 compensation in an out-of-court settlement.

## Crossbow hunt

Police are hunting for thieves who took four potentially lethal crossbows and 40 arrows from a locked classroom at Fairfax school, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

## Blackmail gang

Police investigating a blackmail racket in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, have arrested five men alleged to have demanded hundreds of thousands of pounds from car dealers.

## Cool thieves

Thieves have stolen the copper and brass cooling system of the world's first radiator on display at the Armstrong museum in Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland. Police say the scrap value is £500 but the radiator's historical value makes it priceless.

## £70,000 award

Duxford airfield near Cambridge, part of the Imperial War Museum, is to receive a £70,000 improvement award from the government's Office of Arts and Libraries.

## Theft damage

Burglars caused £100,000 damage to St Mary's convent in Newcastle upon Tyne while tearing out a spiral staircase worth £3,000.

## Blackspot grant

A £31 million landscaping programme to remove former industrial blackspots in Wales was announced by the Welsh Development Agency.

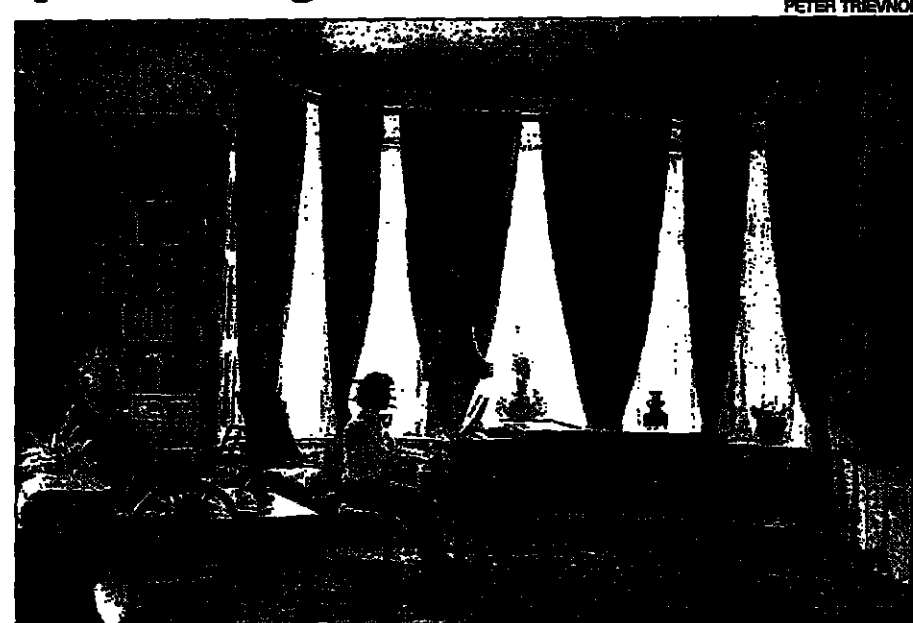
## Country house gets classic touch

By JOHN YOUNG

IN THE main hall of a lovely late 18th-century sandstone house near East Grinstead, West Sussex, two French painters - Jean-Louis Grand, aged 37, and Guillaume Avonture, aged 22 - are creating a classic *trompe l'oeil*, one of the most ambitious such projects to be commissioned for many years, and the latest stage in a remarkable restoration.

Hammerwood Park, listed grade one, was built in 1792 by Benjamin Lambie, who later supervised the rebuilding of the Capitol in Washington DC. During the following 150 years Hammerwood had a number of owners, and in the second world war was requisitioned by the military. Later it was divided into flats, and then in 1973 sold to the pop group Led Zeppelin. After providing the setting for a single large open-air concert, the place was abandoned. Nine years later, when the present owner, David Pinnegar, bought it, the building was an almost total wreck.

Mr Pinnegar was aged 21, newly graduated with a phys-



Mr Pinnegar relaxing at Hammerwood, nine years after he started restoration

ics degree from Imperial College, London. Hammerwood cost him £115,000, which he raised by selling a house and cottage left to him by his grandmother. He decided to restore it to its original function as a country house, a task which has

occupied him for the past nine years and which he reckons will take another 20.

So far he has spent about £220,000, part of which has been met by grants from English Heritage. He and his wife, Anne-Noelle, have received help from volunteers.

There are guided tours on Wednesdays and Saturdays when visitors can inspect progress on the *trompe l'oeil*, one wall of which depicts the temple of Paestum in southern Italy, which provided some of the inspiration for the design of the house.

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Moscow and Belgrade evoke ghosts of two world wars as Yugoslav ceasefire crumbles

Kremlin plays 1914 card in warning to the West

From Bruce Clark in Moscow

IN THE toughest pronouncement on the Yugoslav crisis yet heard from Moscow, the Kremlin said bluntly this week that Western interference in Yugoslav affairs could lead to the conflict spreading throughout Europe.

The parallels between August 1914 and 1991 cannot have been absent from the minds of the officials who drafted the dramatic Kremlin statement. Fuelled by military tradition and resentment over its economic backwardness — an explosive mixture — Serbia is determined that all the southern Slavs be brought under its wing.

Its leaders place their hope in Moscow, believing that, despite being heavily distracted by an internal crisis, the Russian Empire will always protect its little brothers in Orthodox faith and Slavonic culture from anything bad. That faith covers even the consequences of their own opportunism.

But the German-speaking powers of Central Europe are acutely suspicious of Serbia's intentions towards the Roman Catholic regions to its north and west. Only the smallest spark would be needed to set off a wider conflagration.

That is a rough description of the Balkan situation 75

ing more transparent. From the start of the crisis, there has been a subtle but clear difference of emphasis between the positions of Western Europe (though not the United States) and Moscow.

All sides have supported Yugoslavia's integrity, a negotiated settlement of differences and the avoidance of the use of force. But Moscow has always placed more emphasis on territorial integrity and avoided criticizing the use of force by the Serbian-led federal army.

The failure of the European Community's latest initiative had two very unwelcome consequences for Moscow, which explain the acute unhappiness evinced by its statement. It opened up the possibility of more international institutions — the West European Union and the United Nations — becoming involved, politically and even physically, in the conflict. It also prompted several Western states to point the finger at Serbia, with the implication that it should be punished by economic sanctions or by recognizing its Croat and Slovene adversaries.

Two separate impulses seem to be guiding Moscow's thinking, although for now they both point in the same direction: to protect Serbia and its efforts to save the Union from the onslaught of international war.

The first is the concern of a great, if preoccupied, power to preserve stability in the Balkans at all costs, both because of the direct implications for Soviet security and because of the example Yugoslavia's breakup would create. Yugoslavia has always been a sort of Soviet Union in microcosm, whose disintegration has at times followed and at times foreshadowed that of the bigger federation. Both have — in descending order of prosperity and liberalism — an advanced North-West, a Catholic West, an Orthodox heartland and a poor Muslim south.

Moscow's assertion that "there is no ... dispute that cannot be solved by negotiation" is an injunction to follow the example of the main Soviet republics who have just pulled off the spectacular achievement of thrashing out a new federal treaty.

The second of Moscow's concerns must be the increasing possibility that Moldavia, if these concerns weigh on the Soviet Union as a diplomatic power, pro-Serbian sentiment weighs on the Russian people, whether they call themselves communists or conservatives.



Lull in the storm: two Croatian children playing yesterday in front of a house damaged during fighting between Serbs and Croats in Osijek on Wednesday night

Macedonia to hold vote on autonomy

From Anne McElvoy and Dessa Trevisan in Belgrade

MACEDONIA will hold a referendum on September 8 on whether to follow Slovenia and Croatia in declaring independence from Yugoslavia, the Tanjug state news agency said yesterday.

Macedonians will vote on whether they want their republic to become an independent state, with the option of joining any future Yugoslav alliance of sovereign states. So far, throughout the present squabbles of the Yugoslav family, Macedonia has been the best behaved of the siblings. The impoverished southern republic has taken on a significance beyond its size and political clout as the only republic deemed impartial by all sides in the conflict.

Vasil Tupurkovski, the Macedonian delegate to the federal presidency, has assumed the role of a Balkan Henry Kissinger, jettisoning an honest broker between the warring parties. But now it seems that, sick of playing the go-between, many of the two million Macedonians are growing daily more anxious for independence.

The republic's president, Kiro Gligorov, while anxious to avoid the chaos of immediate secession, has already said that Macedonia will secede if Croatia and Slovenia gain their autonomy: a Yugoslavia without those two republics would in effect be a Greater Serbia, to which Macedonia has no desire to play vassal.

Serbia casts Germany as the villain

From Anne McElvoy in Belgrade

THE customs man at Belgrade airport was performing the usual desultory search through my hand-luggage. Suddenly the boredom etched on his features was transformed into a glower. He extracted two German newspapers and cast them into the wastepaper basket. "Deutsch, nicht gut," he growled.

"In English," I said. "English OK," he said, softening. "Germans bad: want to invade Yugoslavia."

Like many other Serbs, he has been quick to take on the message Belgrade's propaganda machine has been pumping out. Anxious to shift the blame for the breakup of Yugoslavia, Serbia has, as one German commentator put it, "rifled through the rubbish bins of history" to come up with a plausible villain in the conspiracy theory — the alleged expansionist aims of Germany.

Newspapers and television have embarked on the orchestrated business of conjuring up old ghosts, sure of finding a receptive public. The phrases "Fourth Reich" and "Drang nach Osten" are common currency, even among Serbs too young to remember the second world war. Bonn's enthusiasm for eventual recognition of Croatia and Slovenia has unleashed arguments more appropriate to 1941 than 1991.

The call to propaganda arms was launched by Yugoslav television at the beginning of July. At the end of the main evening news bulletin, it showed a triumphant Hitler entering Maribor (Marburg an der Draa) in April 1941. The newsreader added that the film "may well awaken associations with the present".

This is precisely what the Serbian government intends. Germany's policies, particularly its scolding of Serbian intransigence and its threat that it would use economic sanctions if attacks on Croatia continued, are now being portrayed as a ploy to regain the warm water port the Nazis coveted.

The federal republic has succeeded Austria as chief external bete noire. During the battle for Slovenia, the pro-Serbian media claimed that the republic was seeking the restoration of a "Habsburg-Biedermeier monarchy".

When it realised that not many people could get worked up about an Austrian threat, it changed tack, explaining that the Austrians were in the grip of more powerful German paymasters.

Relations between Bonn and Belgrade are at their lowest ebb since the war. When Hans-Dietrich Genscher arrived for a visit at the end of June, his passport was demanded at Belgrade airport and an entry stamp added. Herr Genscher has never, in the living memory of any of his aides, had to produce his passport, let alone have it stamped. Having reached the German embassy, he was unable to make telephone contact with Bonn for several hours, raising suspicions that the government was playing leprechaun tricks on its guest.

The debacle seems to have been a significant factor in Herr Genscher's sudden reversal of position, from passionate defender of a federal Yugoslavia to champion of the independence-seeking republics. Another is Chancellor Kohl and his Christian Democrats who are quietly keen to lend a helping hand to their religious brethren in the Catholic republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

With this, the conflict has taken on an extra dimension, seen in Belgrade — and in certain conservative circles in Bonn — as the age-old power struggle between Rome and the eastern Orthodox church for supremacy in southern Europe. Serbia is clearly losing the battle for public sympathy in the West, but nowhere as decisively as in Germany.

The establishment newspapers *Die Welt* and the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* have adopted a strident anti-Serbian tone. So too, more surprisingly, has the usually liberal *Der Spiegel* that headlined a recent cover-story: "The terror of the Serbs".

Bonn: In a warning to the Serbs, Chancellor Kohl said yesterday that any further economic aid to Yugoslavia would depend entirely on an end to violence there (Ian Murray writes).

The EC foreign ministers meeting in The Hague on Tuesday did not back Germany's idea for economic sanctions against Serbia. But the chancellor, speaking in a television interview, made it clear that he would block any economic help until a peaceful dialogue was resumed.

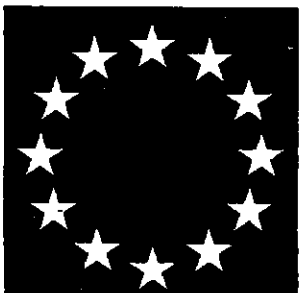
Western forum considers peacekeeping role

By David Watts in London and Gerard Davies in Prague

THE Western European Union began consultations yesterday on a possible peacekeeping role in Yugoslavia for the nine-nation body that coordinates European security policy.

After a day of talks involving officials and the ambassadors of the WEU's constituent countries at its London secretariat, there was agreement to study the problem in the light of moves by other bodies such as the European Community. Conrad Bruche, the WEU spokesman, said that the council agreed to "continue to follow closely developments in the situation in Yugoslavia. Member countries agreed to continue their reflections on possible concrete contributions they might make to the maintenance of an agreed ceasefire, taking into account the efforts made in other international fora such as the EC and the CSCE".

A source close to the union denied that the statement masked a failure. "There can be no question of failure. This is the beginning of a process. There are to be further meet-



- Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe: a new mechanism established at the Paris summit last November. It is a broadly-based body encompassing 34 nations east and west. The CSCE has three offices: the Conflict Prevention Centre in Vienna, the Centre for Free Elections in Warsaw and the Prague secretariat.
- European Community: the Council of Ministers, which comprises ministers from each member government with responsibility for any given area, is the one EC body that might take a unified stand on Yugoslavia. But there is no unanimity of view among the heads of government of the Twelve and there is therefore no common position.
- United Nations: the world organisation's charter was signed by 50 nations in 1945 and has since established a reputation for keeping the peace in world trouble spots from the Middle East to southern Africa. It has the capability to intervene, but despite French suggestions no country has brought the Yugoslav question to the UN.
- Western European Union: nine European nations are members of the WEU with Germany presently holding the chair. Formed in 1948 with the object of supervising European security, it oversaw the gradual re-emergence of Germany as a military power but was largely moribund until co-ordinating European naval contribution to the Gulf war.

Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, speaking on BBC radio, said that there might be scope for some kind of force to police an agreed peace, but not to impose one. "Our purpose is to get the republics within Yugoslavia to agree to a ceasefire," he said. "Unless they do that we can't carry the matter further. We are in the business of maximising the pressure on the republics." If that were successful, "we have a preference for civilian monitoring teams".

Today, the focus shifts to the European Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) meeting in Prague. With 35 members, all with a right of veto, the organisation has been criticised for being unwieldy. The Yugoslav conflict is the first real test since the organisation was "reborn" under the Paris Charter in November.

Nils Eliasson, the director, admits that it is difficult to see what the 35 can do. But he is a firm believer in the CSCE. "Since the collapse of the Warsaw treaty and Comecon, some Eastern European countries are in a political vacuum and don't know where to turn ... here we have a natural forum in which they are equal partners and don't have to come cap in hand."

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Bonn seeks end to refugee flow

From Ian Murray in Bonn

GERMANY, faced with ever-swelling numbers of refugees from Eastern Europe, is considering amending or reinterpreting its liberal asylum regulations to stop at least 60 per cent entering the country. Wolfgang Schäuble, the interior minister, said yesterday that, with an estimated 200,000 asylum-seekers arriving this year, ways of turning many back at the border were needed.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, backed his minister's call for more restrictive entry regulations. He said that soon after his return from holiday in Austria he would be inviting all party leaders to discuss the changes needed.

Herr Schäuble said that he would like a European Community regulation which would keep out asylum-seekers from countries where there was no longer political persecution, or which were safe. He was backed by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, who said in a letter to Klaus Kinkel, the justice minister, that there was no need to grant asylum to Poles, Hungarians, Czechoslovaks, Bulgarians and Romanians.

The July figures show that despite the overthrow of the communist regime, Romanians top the list of would-be migrants. Under the terms of the Basic Law (constitution), which can only be altered with a two-thirds majority of parliament, those who arrive claiming asylum must be allowed entry pending an investigation. Less than 5 per cent are allowed to stay after the investigation, but tens of thousands "disappear" during that time.

The moves for a change take place against a background of warnings by police that far-right groups are becoming more organised and attracting new members as resentment against foreigners grows.



## Release of Western hostages in Lebanon still hinges on Jerusalem freeing Hezbollah cleric

## Israeli offer raises hope of captive swap

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THE prospects of an imminent hostage release in Lebanon have boosted hopes in Britain and the United States of a breakthrough. But Israel may hold the key.

There is unlikely to be any movement until the question of Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, the leading Hezbollah cleric seized by Israel in July 1989, is resolved. Lebanese Muslim militants also want the release of an estimated 400 other Lebanese prisoners held in Israel and at Khiam prison in Israel's security zone in southern Lebanon.

Israel yesterday repeated its offer to swap Lebanese prisoners for missing Israeli soldiers — a move seen as vital for the release of the 12 Western hostages in Lebanon. The defence ministry spokesman, Danny Naveh, responding to reports that hostage-takers in Lebanon

may be preparing to release some of their captives, said Israel would welcome this. "As we have said repeatedly, if the Red Cross will allow Israel access to its soldiers, we will be prepared to negotiate. In this framework we will free Lebanese prisoners in exchange for missing Israeli prisoners," he said in a statement.

Sheikh Obeid controlled a key sector of southern Lebanon for the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) militia. He is not in the same category as Western hostages, innocent journalists or professors who fell victim to Lebanon's treacherous politics. Sheikh Obeid actively campaigned on one side of the conflict and was seized by Israeli commandos as a pawn. However, in the eyes of Shia Muslim fundamentalists such as Sheikh Fadlallah,



Centre stage: Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, left, the Hezbollah cleric abducted by Israel, John McCarthy and Terry Anderson, the British and US journalists held in Lebanon, and Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, Hezbollah mentor

Sheikh Obeid is just as much a hostage as Terry Anderson or John McCarthy.

Although Israel has remained silent about the latest disclosures in Beirut and Tehran, there is little doubt at the defence ministry that no solution can be found without Israel's full participation. A defence ministry spokesman reiterated Israel's policy that it will agree to negotiate the freedom of the sheikh and its other Lebanese captives but only if it can also secure the release of seven Israeli soldiers missing in action in Lebanon. The seven Israelis are: Zacharia Baumel, Ye-

huda Katz, and Zvi Feldman, who went missing during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982; Samir Assad, an Israeli Druze captured and believed killed in 1983; Yossi Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh, who were captured by Hezbollah in 1986; and Ron Arad, an air force navigator shot down in 1986 and held by Hezbollah.

The Israeli dimension complicates a process which involves not only America, Britain, Germany, Syria, Iran and Lebanon but also the various groups working under the Hezbollah umbrella. "We are willing to be part

of an overall agreement, a package deal on the hostages, providing Israeli prisoners are included," explained one Israeli official yesterday. "With all due respect we have to take account of our own people."

In a separate development, the Lebanese army said yesterday that it had rescued two Germans from a cave in southern Lebanon.

The couple, husband and wife, entered Lebanon in January 1990 and had been missing since then. The army statement, broadcast by the state-run Radio Lebanon, identified them as Jurd Schil-

ler, aged 49, and Inge Burrook, aged 34. "A Lebanese army force managed after a search to find them in a cave in the south," the statement said. It said the couple had been held but did not identify their captors. In Bonn, a government official said the couple might be the same Germans who came to the German embassy in Beirut in July claiming they had been kidnapped. They identified themselves as Gerd and Ingeborg Schleuter and had no papers or money.

Diary, page 14  
Leading article, page 15

## Man in black holds key to victims' cells

FROM ALI JASER IN BEIRUT

CLAD in black robe and turban, an angry Shia cleric harangued his congregation of hundreds of bearded men during Friday prayers in Beirut in 1982. "The Western world will never listen to us unless we become a source of their discomfort," he said. "If we cease to be the thorn in the West's side, they will crush us like bread crumbs."

He was Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, mentor of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hezbollah (Party of God), which is believed to be the umbrella organisation under which Muslim zealots operate in taking foreign hostages in Lebanon.

Three young shy, soft-spoken Shias were among his audience. Imad Mughniyeh, Abdul-Hadi Hamadi and Hassan Ezzedine took Sheikh Fadlallah's words to heart. They became the nucleus of the Islamic Jihad organisation which has stamped its mark on Middle East politics for almost a decade.

Probably without knowing, Sheikh Fadlallah was laying the ideology behind Jihad actions. Under his wing, the organisation grew to be the most prominent among underground terrorist factions holding foreign captives here.

He and his followers worked against the background of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon nine years ago. At the time, the underprivileged Lebanese Shias for whom the sheikh spoke paid the heaviest price of the incursion. Their land in southern Lebanon was occupied, homes destroyed, and many of their young men were imprisoned in Israel and at Khiam in Israel's "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

With the absence of international or Arab reactions to the invasion, Sheikh Fadlallah knew that he was sprinkling the seeds of rebellion on fertile soil. The anti-Western pan-Arab ideologies which thrived in Lebanon before 1982 all but crumbled after Israeli forces reached the capital and evicted the Palestine Liberation Organisation from Beirut. Sheikh Fadlallah, armed with Islamic fanaticism and unlimited help from Iran, launched Hezbollah and the clandestine Jihad group as the spearheads for the newly born resistance against Israel. Their debut was a suicide car-bomb attack on an Israeli base in southern Lebanon in 1983, killing 50 soldiers.

Fed with a hatred of Americans by their Iranian patrons, and haunted by the Muslim idea of "the oppressive West", the group turned against the American-led multinational forces who embarked on a peace mission in the country that same year. On October 24, 1983, one of their suicide bombers blew up a marine

base south of Beirut, killing 246 American servicemen. Almost simultaneously, another ripped through a French paratroopers' headquarters, and 56 were killed. Earlier in March, the group claimed responsibility for bombing the American embassy here. About 50 American and Lebanese citizens were killed.

When Imad Mughniyeh's brother-in-law, a fundamentalist, Youssef Badreddine, was arrested with 16 companions in Kuwait in 1983 on sabotage and bombing charges, the Jihad captured several Americans in Beirut and offered to swap them for the 17. Six American hostages are still in captivity here, although the 17 prisoners regained their freedom soon after Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2 last year. Sources here said that Mr Badreddine and most of his friends returned to Beirut after fighting against the Iraqi occupation.

By assisting the United States Air Force during the raids on Libya in 1986 and by embracing Salman Rushdie, author of the novel, *The Satanic Verses*, which was considered here as blasphemous to Islam, Britain placed itself on Jihad's blacklist. Several Britons were kidnapped, three of them still detained.

Bonn followed London's footsteps when German customs detained and later sentenced to long prison terms



Muhammad Ali Hamadi and his brother Abbas. Both were brothers of the Jihad's second-in-command, Abdul-Hadi Hamadi. Two German hostages were taken on their behalf.

In a recent interview, Sheikh Fadlallah said that the fate of the captives depended solely on the release by Israel of the Palestinian and Lebanese detainees. His views were duplicated in the latest statement by the kidnappers in which they said that they would send an envoy to meet Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the secretary-general of the United Nations, to try to close the hostage file and end the plight of the prisoners.

## Church stands on sidelines

By DAVID WAITTS  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Waitts: abducted in west Beirut in January 1987

played a tireless role in maintaining contacts in the search for any possible glimmer of hope that might win freedom not only for Mr Waitts, who was kidnapped in west Beirut on January 20, 1987, but also for John McCarthy, the television journalist, who was kidnapped by the same group in April of the next year.

He, like Mr Waitts, is believed to be alive. Jack Mann, the retired airline pilot who fought in the Battle of Britain, is believed held by a group called Armed Struggle Cells and, despite ill-health resulting from his wartime injuries, is also believed alive. He had lived in Beirut for 43 years before he was abducted.

After his release, fellow hostage Brian Keenan presented the first proof that Mr Waitts was alive. In a television interview he said: "I know Terry Waitts is alive. I know he has been ill in the past, and the illness I do not think is serious."

The late John Lytle, the former Archbishop of Canterbury's head of public affairs,

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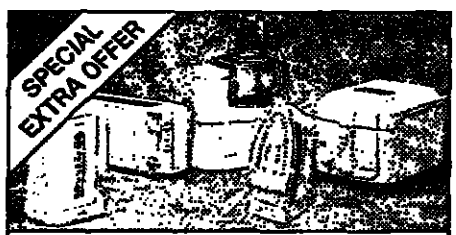
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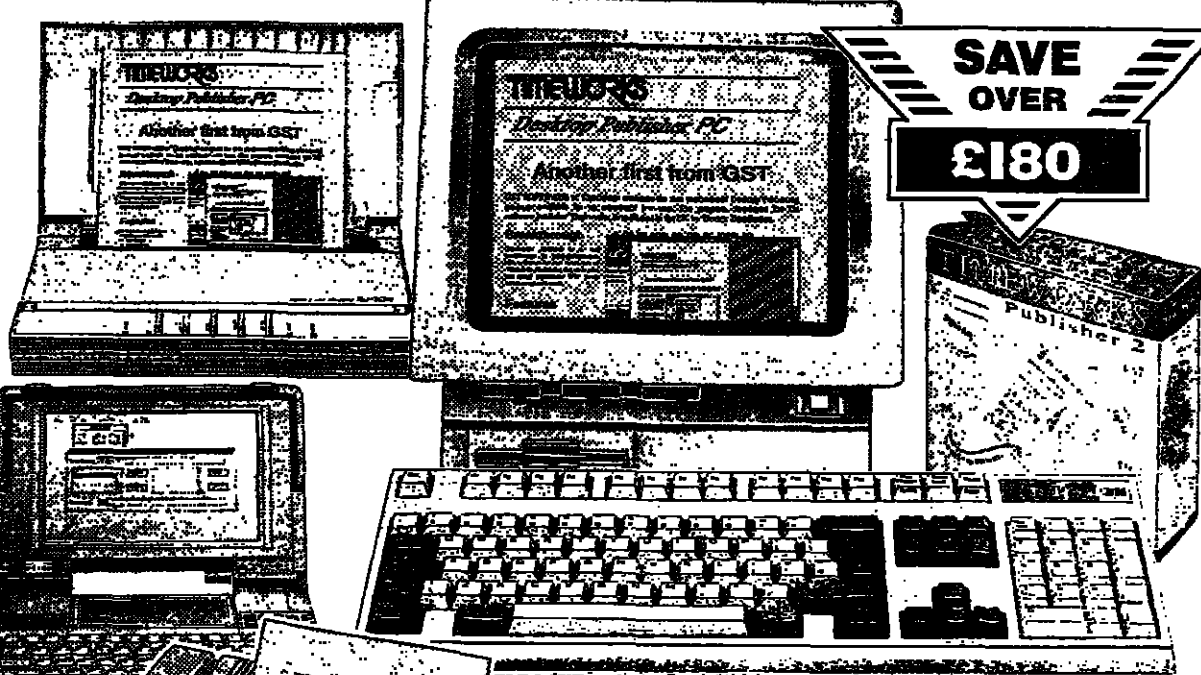
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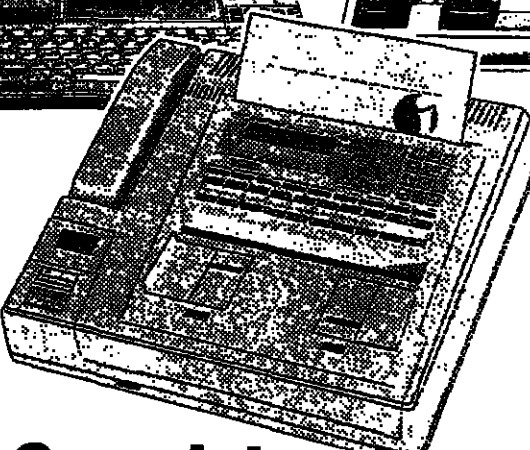
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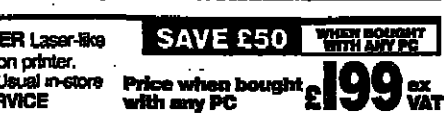
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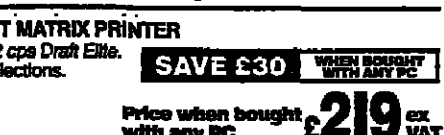
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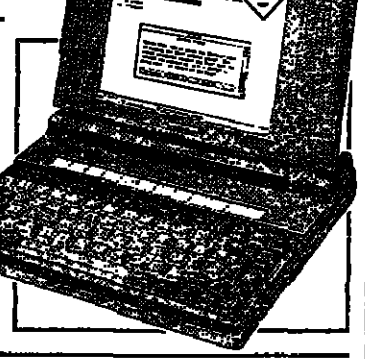


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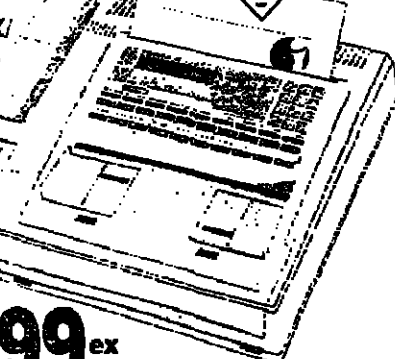


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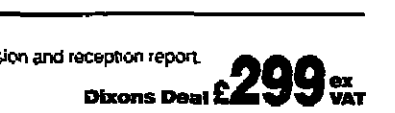
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## Turks keep troops in Iraq to hunt Kurd rebels

From ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

MESUT Yilmaz, the Turkish prime minister, confirmed yesterday that his country's troops were still engaged in military action on the Iraqi side of the border.

But the foreign ministry would not comment on a statement that Mr Yilmaz was reported to have made to a columnist for *Milliyet* newspaper that Turkey intended to carve out a five-kilometre (three-mile) no man's land in Iraq to prevent incursions by guerrillas of the separatist Kurdish Workers' party.

Turkey is also said to have given prior notice to the Iraqi Kurdish leadership that anything within five kilometres of its border was fair game. Although there are no official descriptions of the Turkish action, reports from the area speak of widespread use of F4 and F104 fighter-bombers, Puma helicopters, and also a large movement of troops.

Mr Yilmaz said after a five-hour cabinet meeting in Ankara that the action was retaliation against "separatist bandits" responsible for a rocket assault on a Turkish border post last Sunday in which nine soldiers were



killed. Mr Yilmaz, who will be fighting an election before the autumn next year, clearly believes that public opinion will support his tough stand. His government's actions will reinforce the contention that Kurdish insurgency in Turkey is caused by an external threat rather than being an indigenous problem.

An American military spokesman in Turkey for Operation Provide Comfort, the rescue mission for Iraqi Kurds, whose land forces are based only a few miles from

the border, said yesterday that its troops were in no way involved or compromised by the Turkish operation. The pro-Kurdish press in Turkey claims that the residual multinational force, which is co-commanded by Turkey, is not there to protect the Iraqi Kurds but to threaten Turkish Kurds agitating for greater rights.

Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, an Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, said at a press conference in Istanbul yesterday that he neither requested nor was given details of the cross-border operation. Mr al-Sahaf, who is attending a meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Congress, was careful to say nothing which might jeopardise an improvement in his country's relations with Turkey but did say that the 1988 agreement which gave Turkey the right of hot pursuit into Iraq had expired.

On three previous occasions, the last in March 1987, Turkey has launched well-publicised raids in retaliation for Kurdish separatist attacks inside Turkey. Special army commando units living rough in the mountains between the two countries are known to be fighting their own counter-guerrilla wars against the Kurdish Workers' party. The supposition is that Turkey is trying to establish a more permanent security barrier on its border, prompted by the absence of any clear authority in northern Iraq.

The notion that Turkey could create an impermeable zone is complicated, however, by the length of the border and the mountainous terrain. Total security would be a difficult and expensive proposition. The Kurdish Workers' party guerrillas, who have bases in Syria, cross into Turkey via Iraq.

The Syrian border, which is flat, is protected by barbed wire in front of a minefield which is raked to show traces of footprints. The Syrian foreign minister, Farouk al-Sharaa, who is also in Istanbul, is believed to have expressed concern at the Turkish action.



Seeds of hope: less than three months after the end of Ethiopia's civil war, which contributed to famine, disease and despair in the country over many years, children play happily in a heap of grain brought to the village of Abi Adi by the Relief Society of Tigré

## Sanctions split African leaders

From MICHAEL HARTNACK IN HARARE

PRESIDENTS Kaunda of Zambia and Mugabe of Zimbabwe yesterday appeared to be in open conflict over continuing sanctions against South Africa. President Mugabe told a meeting in Harare of African socialist parties that sanctions must continue as long as white rule, but President Kaunda, chairman of the seven-member grouping of frontline states, reportedly called for the lifting of all boycotts.

In his most uncompromising statement since President de Klerk began the Pretoria peace process last year, Mr Mugabe said: "Until such time as an administration that does not owe its existence to apartheid is in place in South Africa, we have no choice but to insist on the maintenance of economic sanctions and other forms of pressure against South Africa."

The Zimbabwean leader recently made covert approaches to Pretoria for renegotiation of the 1964 "most favoured nation" trade treaty he inherited from Ian Smith's Rhodesian government. South Africa is the best customer for Zimbabwe's exports and trade last year reached a record £200 million,

with Pretoria streamlining visa procedures for Zimbabwean officials and businessmen. A four-hour queue for visas is customary outside the South African trade mission in Harare.

President Kaunda, who has been hesitating for the past year over opening a South African trade mission in Lusaka, was reported by Zimbabwe's official news agency, Zana, to have disowned sanctions before this week's special congress of his ruling United National Independence party (Unip). He reportedly said: "What is happening in South Africa now is not just token symbols but realities."

● **Kabwe, Zambia:** A young businessman who had wanted to wrest Zambia's presidency from Dr Kaunda withdrew his challenge yesterday just two days before a crucial vote on the issue by Unip. "In the interest of party unity, I have decided I will not be contesting the party candidacy," Enoch Kavindele told a party congress. To cheers and yells of "KK [Kenneth Kaunda] forever" from 6,000 delegates, Mr Kavindele hugged President Kaunda, who will now be the sole nominee of the party. (Reuters)

## Japan's Jim Hacker keeps halo polished for power

From JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

TWO years ago this week Toshiki Kaifu, a relatively unknown former education minister, was plucked from obscurity on the backbenches of the ruling Liberal Democratic party to become prime minister. As Japan's equivalent of Jim Hacker in *Yes, Prime Minister*, many believed that he would not be long in the post.

For his role was to sit out the unexpired term of Sosuke Uno, his predecessor, whose early departure was precipitated by a sex scandal after just eight weeks in office. Mr Uno, in turn, had been sitting out the unexpired term of Noboru Takeshita, his predecessor, who had been forced out under the cloud of the Recruit bribery scandal.

Today, Mr Kaifu has not only sat out that first term, he is a few weeks short of completing a subsequent two-year party presidential term, which confers with it the title of prime minister. And he is a potential candidate for re-election in October.

Mr Kaifu's survival and pretensions to a second term, given his reputation as Japan's weakest postwar prime minister, are an anomaly in the byzantine world of Liberal Democratic politics. Despite a surfeit of opposition parties, the party has been in power for 36 years and has become riddled with factions which fight every two years for the presidency.

Usually, it is the candidate from the strongest faction who wins. Yet Mr Kaifu comes from the smallest and poorest of the main factions. He has had to rely on more influential colleagues, who harbour ambitions to claim a turn in the prime minister's seat before it is too late.

The choice of Mr Kaifu was a measure of the desperation at the shortage of candidates untainted by charges of venality. That Mr Kaifu has been allowed to stay on so long and could be a contender for another term is an indication of how little the party has done to clean up the dirty money politics that have embarrassed it in the past.

Mr Kaifu's secret seems to lie in precisely what he is not. He is not powerful — before every move he must canvass support among those who, according to the *Asahi Shimbun*, pull the strings. He has



Kaifu: a weak Mr Clean in a world of dirty money politics

not been involved in any of the moral improprieties that have damaged the reputations of his predecessors.

He is not, according to party insiders, a man of strong rhetoric or stubborn determination, and he is not well connected in the business world, which deprives his faction of the financial resources which directly bestow political influence. Finally, Mr Kaifu is not a septuagenarian. At 60, he is the fresh-faced youngster who has risen above the gerontocracy that runs the party.

The problem for these patriarchs is that their power is derived almost exclusively from their financial resources

and these appear to have been amassed, in many cases, through less than virtuous means. "The most powerful politicians are definitely those with the most money," said Takeshi Sasaki, professor of politics at Tokyo University.

The Recruit bribery scandal touched the leader of the party's largest faction, Mr Takeshita, and the leaders of the second, third and fourth most powerful factions, Shin-ichi Abe, Kiichi Miyazawa and Michio Watanabe. The recent securities scandal, in which it emerged that compensation was improperly paid by brokers to reimburse the stock market losses of favoured clients, had indirectly tainted Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister. He might have been a strong candidate come October, but has seen his hopes dashed by the scandal.

Most current scandals have involved illicit payments to influential people by ambitious companies. The avant companies have been correct in their judgment of who's who in politics. Mr Kaifu has not emerged on any lists. He will spend the next two months polishing his halo, hoping the storm continues to discourage his puppeteers from dropping his strings to compete against him.

## US plans anti-drug team for Peru

Washington — America, seeking to help to prevent the army in Peru from tipping off drug dealers and guerrillas about police crackdowns, is apparently planning to send a military team there to advise anti-drugs officials (Susan Ellicott writes).

The co-operation, which has yet to be agreed finally with the government of President Fujimori, comes after similar United States programmes with Bolivia and Colombia. It would also mark an important step towards joint operations between Washington and the Peruvian armed forces after years of allegations about human-rights abuses.

## Exiles return

Lusaka — The biggest repatriation operation for exiled members of the African National Congress is due to begin tomorrow when the first group of 500 will fly home to South Africa. More than 2,000 exiles, nearly the entire contingent in Zambia, are to go home in the next month. (Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 14)

## Standing down

Washington — Senator John "Jay" Rockefeller has decided not to seek the Democrats' presidential nomination. His move leaves only Paul Tsongas, the little-known former Massachusetts senator, in the party's pool of declared candidates to take on President Bush next year.

## CBS man dies

New York — Harry Reasoner, the television journalist whose elegant prose, dry wit and wry self-effacing style helped make the CBS 60 Minutes news magazine one of American television's most popular programmes, has died from pneumonia. The four-time Emmy prize winner journalist was 68. (AP)

## Captain's choice

Durban — Paul Whaley, a South African navy diver, said the captain of the Greek passenger liner, the Okeanos, pushed past elderly passengers to be watched off the sinking ship's deck on the first helicopter last weekend. He told *The Daily News* that the captain insisted on being among the first rescued. (Reuters)

## Polisario battle

Algiers — Fighting between Morocco and the Polisario Front has flared in Western Sahara after a lull of almost two years. Both sides said that it could jeopardise United Nations plans for a ceasefire on September 6 and a referendum in January. The front said that Moroccan planes had raided its positions. (Reuters)

## Pain-free tip

Peking — The design and research institute of physical and chemical engineering here has invented a cigarette that it claims can stop a toothache in ten seconds after a single puff and give relief for a year, the official *China Daily* reported. The institute has also invented a jelly for treating diabetes. (AFP)

## Flight of fancy

Jerusalem — A whisky-drinking woman on a Berlin-Tel Aviv flight tore off her dress, shouting while naked "Bring me Shamir, I want Shamir", apparently referring to the diminutive Israeli prime minister, aged 75. Her only luggage was a plastic bag containing \$30,000. She was taken to a police station for psychological tests. (Reuters)

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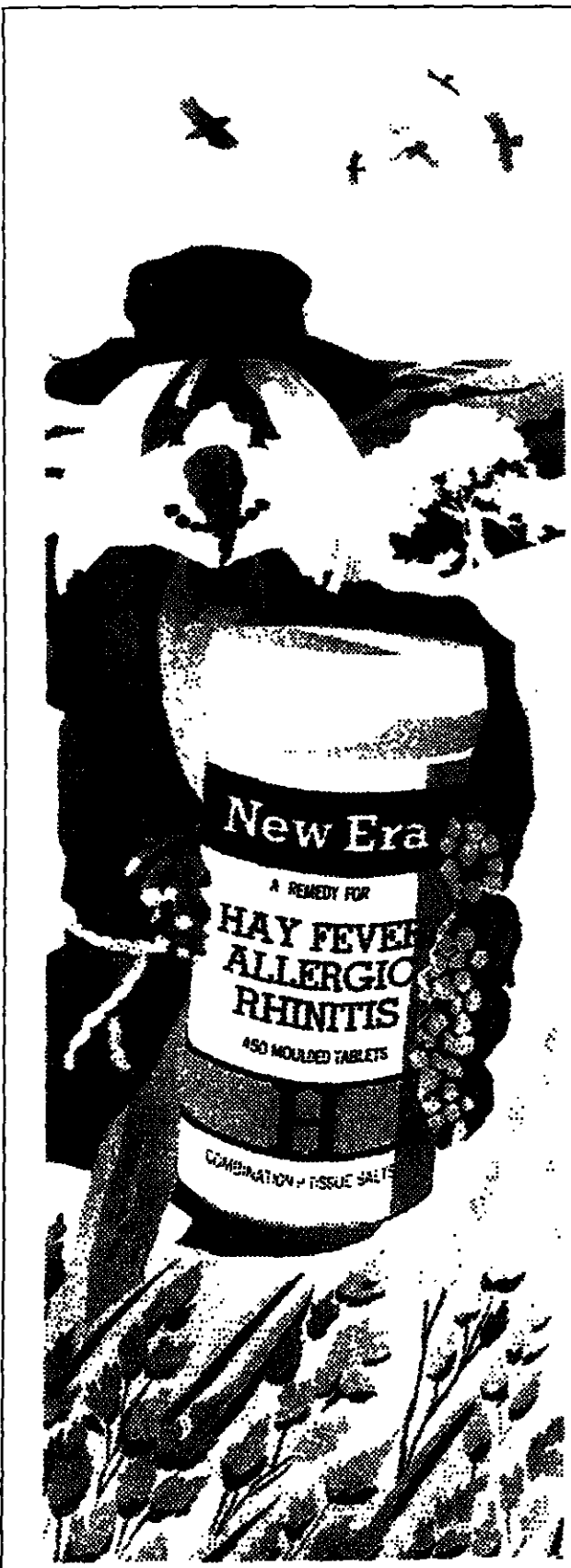
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US MEDICAL NOTEBOOK by Susan Ellicott

## American physician, heal thyself

This is the summer for doctor-bashing in America. As health-care workers face scrutiny from Aids-fearing patients about their sterilisation methods, Hollywood has released two films criticising the go-get mentality of yuppie physicians who lack bedside manners.

Resonant at the medical community has been building for some time. It only takes a few large medical bills to understand why. Patients often complain that American medicine lacks the compassionate touch, with doctors relying heavily on high technology. An Australian friend recently was taken to hospital in Washington with abdominal pains. A doctor, contacted hours earlier, said she was waiting for a carpet delivery at home and was unable to visit. The friend later collapsed with internal bleeding. Treatment and a

three-night stay in hospital cost \$8,000 (£4,670), most of which will be paid by her employer's insurer.

An unlikely item on a convalescent's list of films is *Doc Hollywood*. Michael J. Fox stars as an arrogant big-city doctor, dreaming of a lucrative career in Beverly Hills as a plastic surgeon, but whose plans are derailed temporarily when he crashes his red Porsche into the garden fence of a local judge.

In court, the angry owner banishes him to Grady, a hick southern town, to perform community service. The film pokes fun at the ethics of doctors willing to mould the faces of rich Californian teenagers who hate their noses. In one scene, a cosmetic surgeon suggests he might "squeeze one more in before lunch". Warner Bros' look at the doctor's acclimatisation to

life in a town famous only for its turnips follows *The Doctor* (Touchstone Pictures), about a cocky cardiac surgeon, played by William Hurt, who reassesses his career drive when diagnosed with throat cancer. The plot is the latest in film-studio didactics as highly paid professionals supposedly shift from the materialistic 1980s to the kinder post-Reagan 1990s. The Hurt film is based on *A Taste of My Own Medicine*, a book by a doctor, Ed Rosenbaum.

In real life, doctors and patients are wrangling over a health-care worker's right to privacy amid the troubles over the HIV virus that causes Aids. Both sides are seeking more reassurances before invasive procedures. Patients are asking doctors and dentists to give guided tours of their offices to prove that equip-

ment is sound and sterile. Many doctors object that clients are asking point blank if they are homosexual or have Aids. Exacerbating the tension is Jack Rosenberg, founder of the Manhattan Dental Guild. He has advised HIV-positive colleagues to lie for the sake of holding on to their practices. Most others, however, explain to patients that the proper use of "barrier" methods — plastic gloves, face masks and goggles — makes the chances of transmission tiny.

As politicians join the critics of soaring health-care costs, a book for terminally ill patients about how to commit suicide has become a best-seller. Written by the founder of the pro-euthanasia Hemlock Society, *Final Exit* has sold more than 40,000 copies.



# Overactive ingredients in boys and girls



Can a surfeit of certain foods change a cherubic child into a troublemaker? More doctors accept a link between eating habits and behaviour

More doctors are accepting that there is some connection between children's behaviour and their diet. Recent studies among hyperactive children and young offenders have shown that startling behavioural improvements often result when their diet is changed from "junk" foods to wholefoods. New research at the Great Ormond Street and Maudsley hospitals has demonstrated that the role of diet in children's behaviour can no longer be ignored.

The dramatic effect that dietary changes can have was highlighted by the recent case of 11-year-old Graham Johnson, who turned from an uncontrollable tearaway into a normal, pleasant boy when pizzas, baked beans and chocolate were removed from his diet and he was given fresh vegetables, coconut milk and carrot instead.

Almost always it is boys whose behaviour is adversely affected by certain foods. Three out of four hyperactive children are boys, three times more boys than girls suffer from dyslexia - where the role of diet is also becoming apparent, according to the Dyslexic Institute - and nine out of ten young offenders are also boys.

Boys - but rarely girls - can become aggressive, delinquent and exhibit severe learning difficulties when they eat certain foods. And although boys' behaviour often improves rapidly when offending foods are removed, doctors find that, on the whole, girls do not respond nearly as well.

Why should this be? Dr Michael Tetterton, a consultant paediatrician working in Eastbourne district hospitals, treats about 400 children with behavioural and learning difficulties a year, and has found the dietary approach to be the only one that works.

"At the moment, we don't know why boys suffer more than girls," he says. "I've noticed that it's not just boys, but mainly fair-haired boys who are badly affected by junk foods. There's no real data on it yet, but it seems as if certain chemicals in foods can influence the neurotransmitters in the brain which govern behaviour."

"Whenever neurotransmitters are affected, males suffer more than females. We know that epilepsy, for instance, is far more common in boys than girls, and there are far more boys than girls in special schools, and who have serious learning problems."

Dr Jonathan Brostoff, an immunologist at the Middlesex hospital medical school in London, defines hyper-

**Boys are more likely to be hyperactive than girls, and more likely to change their behaviour with a change of diet. Liz Hodgkinson reports**

activity in children as a combination of symptoms including inability to keep still, constant fidgeting, poor concentration, short attention span, mood changes, unpredictable, excitable and aggressive behaviour, extreme frustration, inability to sleep for very long, a constant raging thirst, chronic illness and unhappiness, depression, inability to finish any task, and difficulty in talking and making themselves understood.

Dr Brostoff, who for many years has studied the ways in which certain foods might cause allergies, says that chemical additives in foods are implicated in hyperactivity, possibly because they prevent certain enzymes from working properly. He believes that food additives are an important reason for the rise in incidence of hyperactivity over the past 20 years.

Common food allergens include cola, coffee, chocolate, artificial sweeteners, bacon and ham, continental sausages, take-away foods, foods high in refined sugar, and very salty and spicy foods. Foods generally considered unlikely to provoke allergic reactions include lamb, pears, turkey, wholemeal bread, fresh, unprocessed fish and cheese, potatoes, rice, beans and lentils, leafy green vegetables and most fresh fruits.

But as children have very individual reactions to diet, no elimination diets should be attempted without medical supervision. "There is no such thing as a good food for all children," Dr Brostoff says. "But if allergies and intolerances can be detected, and the diet improved, there will usually be a 50 to 80 per cent improvement in behaviour."

Superintendent Peter Bennett, of the West Yorkshire police, who was instrumental in helping Graham Johnson to change his diet, has become convinced that much delinquent and criminal behaviour among youths is connected with diet. "Diet is

not necessarily the only cause, and there are complex social factors involved as well," he says. "But the importance of diet to behaviour can no longer be overlooked."

"Since Graham Johnson's story, we have been inundated with calls from parents all over the country, and in 99 per cent of cases the problem children are boys."

"After his diet was changed, Graham said that, for the first time, he was happy. Tests showed that he was severely zinc-deficient, and for some reason, zinc deficiency seems to affect boys far more than girls."

Professor Derek Bryce-Smith of Reading university has been researching the possible links between diet and behaviour for many years and now believes that zinc, together with chromium, is one of the two key minerals which can affect behaviour. He was one of the first scientists to point out the connection between lead levels and brain damage in children.

Again, boys seemed to suffer more severe brain damage from lead intake than girls.

Professor Bryce-Smith says: "It seems from our research that a bad diet affects those areas of the brain which control impulses. Junk food diets cause disinhibited behaviour combined with mild depressive states."

But why do "junk food" diets - defined by Professor Bryce-Smith as lacking in essential vitamins and minerals - not make girls similarly aggressive and disinhibited? "We have to accept that in many ways, male and female bodily systems are fundamentally different," he says. "Brain chemistry is different, and hormonal interactions vary enormously."

"When zinc and chromium are not present, aberrant behaviour can result. Studies on brain-damaged children have shown that giving zinc works extremely well for boys, but less well on girls."

When girls follow a bad diet, Profes-

sor Bryce-Smith says, they tend to become passive and withdrawn. Sometimes this may lead, he believes, to anorexia nervosa, which is far more common in girls than boys. But it is rare for girls to become aggressive and criminally inclined in the way that some boys do.

"It seems that boys' brains react far worse to toxic insults than girls' brains do, and this is most probably intimately connected with different hormonal chemistry," Professor Bryce-Smith says. "Women are on the whole programmed to survive better in adverse circumstances, and are better able to withstand depleted diets. We are only just appreciating that, biologically and hormonally speaking, men and women are very different indeed."

He points out that reaction to certain foods is in any case highly individual. "The brain is a complex organ, and an effect produced in one person will not necessarily be noticed in another. So far, though, the dietary approach is the only one which has been successful with hyperactive and delinquent children."

For many years Bernard Gesch has been treating young offenders in Cumbria with wholefood diets and supplements, an approach which, while remaining controversial, has enabled many young criminals to be kept out of institutions. He is now working with Professor Bryce-Smith on developing dietary programmes as an alternative to custodial sentencing.

"Up to now, the question of nutrition has been so basic that we've missed it altogether," Mr Gesch says. "I'm not for a minute suggesting that biological factors are the only ones influencing criminal behaviour, but that we have to look at biological and social factors together."

Mr Gesch is the director of Natural Justice, a charity which has been awarded a £20,000 government grant to further research the connection between diet and behaviour.

Dr Tetterton says that it has now become conventional medical wisdom that certain foods affect certain children. "But we've hardly started research into why boys react more to bad diets. We do know, though, that from a health point of view, being male is not a good idea. Women live longer, they suffer far less from heart attacks, they have more stamina, and can survive for longer in adverse conditions."

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## Sweating like a dog

ONLY in hot and muggy weather, such as we had earlier this week, do the normally rather sensitive people who suffer from psoriasis have anything in common with a muzzled rottweiler or pitbull terrier.

Dogs are incapable of sweating, except through the pads of their feet, and regulate their temperature by panting, whereas humans have hundreds of thousands of sweat glands (558 per square centimetre on the palms and soles, for instance) in their skin. The evaporation of the sweat secreted by these glands cools the body. Cases have been reported in newspapers recently of dogs which had been so tightly muzzled that they were unable to open their mouths to pant and, as a result, their heat regulatory mechanism was put out of action and some even died of hyperthermia.

Almost simultaneously, but by chance, research workers have reported that patients with severe psoriasis in whom the patches have become confluent can suffer a partial failure of the human heat regulatory mechanism in hot weather. In consequence these people are subjected to an increase in their body temperature which can be distressing if they exercise vigorously in humid conditions.



It seems that, unlike normal skin, the thick, raised, red scaly patches of psoriasis do not sweat sufficiently.

Psoriasis, in very varying degrees of severity, affects about 3 per cent of the population. Although typically it appears as a circumscribed red rash on the elbows, knees or trunk, it also commonly attacks the scalp, the nails and the anogenital region. (Only in the VD clinic is a diagnosis of psoriasis greeted with relief as patients, fearful that the red lesion is a price paid for an indiscretion, are

delighted to learn that they have a common skin disease.) The face is usually spared.

Even without treatment, which is constantly improving, the natural history of psoriasis is one of remissions punctuated by recurrences. Psoriasis can be aggravated by infections, some drugs (possibly even including excessive alcohol), damage to the skin, or mental stress, for although stress does not cause psoriasis it may precipitate it in somebody who has a hereditary predisposition to it.

## Through the keyhole

WHEN a patient has had the standard nephrectomy (the removal of a kidney) he leaves the theatre with a 6in to 9in scar down his side that would not disgrace a survivor of Balacava. But last week two surgeons, Mr John Wickham of the Institute of Urology and Mr Malcolm Copcock, removed a kidney at Dulwich hospital, south-east London, through an incision less than half an inch long in the umbilicus - a cut smaller than a finger's breadth.

The surgeons, operating through the umbilicus and three even smaller incisions in the abdominal wall, used endoscopy and TV monitoring to help them separate the kidney from the surrounding tissue. After the kidney had been freed and the renal pelvis clamped, it was popped into a closely woven, watertight nylon bag.

The opening of the bag, with the kidney still inside, was drawn to an instrument, which works like a kitchen blender, could be inserted into it. When the kidney had been incised to the consistency of baby food it was sucked out and the bag then withdrawn through the umbilicus.

The lack of unsightly scars is not the only benefit de-

rived from minimally invasive, keyhole, surgery. Mr Wickham expects that his patient, the first to be treated in this way in Britain, will be fit to leave hospital within five days and ready for work in a fortnight.

Next week Mr Wickham will operate on a patient with a malignant disease of the kidney, but in this case he will have to remove the ureter, the tube leading from the kidney to the bladder, as well.

## No place for nostalgia?

THOSE who long for the return to the days when childbirth was a family occasion rather than a surgical procedure often look nostalgically at the delivery chair and advocate its return. A carefully controlled trial in Dublin, in which patients having their first apparently uncomplicated delivery were allocated randomly either to a chair, and usually experienced midwives, or to a bed, and in the main students, has been reported in the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*.

Contrary to expectation, the survey showed that there were no advantages to delivery in the chair, but rather the reverse. The episiotomy rate was lower, but this was balanced by a higher tear rate, despite the greater skill of the midwives. Women

delivered in the chair had a greater risk of haemorrhage, retained placenta and postnatal anaemia.

The chair might have proved its usefulness if the women allocated to it had enjoyed the experience more than those who were delivered in bed, but from detailed questioning it seems that they suffered no less pain and were neither more nor less comfortable; and there was no reduction in the number who needed a forceps delivery or Caesarean section.

In general, it could be said that delivery in the traditional birthing chair may sound reassuringly low-tech, but it was no less distressing to the mother than being relegated to the students and the stirrups, and had the added disadvantage of a greater chance of bleeding.

Patients still want health tests despite growing doubts among doctors about their value

For a fee local chemists will often satisfy our desire to know what our blood cholesterol and blood pressure levels are - even if we have little idea what the figures mean. General practitioners, who must offer free health screening under the terms of their contracts, are much less keen. This week the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), supported by the British Medical Association, dismissed some of the tests as having little or no scientific value.

This is not what most of us want to hear. We cling to the idea that seeing our doctor for a few medical checks will keep death and disease at bay. Meanwhile, scientists strive to invent new and better early warning tests for cancer and cardiovascular disease, which together account for two-thirds of deaths among the under-65s.

Not only GPs are giving screening a bad press. Researchers emphasise that tests designed to give early warning of disease are often not the precise tool we would hope them to be. For every case of disease which is detected early, there are false positives which must be investigated, sometimes surgically and always with a high toll of psychological distress.

## Behind the screens

Do these unpromising findings mean we should reject screening altogether and simply wait for the disease process to set in? Dr John Noakes, the author of an article in the *British Journal of General Practice* which criticised the family doctor health checks, admits this would be an unfortunate conclusion. "We are not rubbishing all forms of screening," says Dr Noakes, the vice-chairman of the RCGP council.

"We think it is worth measuring people's blood pressure from the age of 30, but if it is normal there is no point doing it more than five-yearly. Cholesterol is only worth testing if people have a couple of other risk factors, such as smoking and high blood pressure."

"Unfortunately patients want to hand over their bodies to be looked after, when in reality there are very few things we can do which are effective. We can sit down and talk to them about their



Under pressure: checks can add anxiety

lifestyles, and encourage them to take up screening programmes for breast and cervical cancer. These things are worthwhile, but they put responsibility back on to the patient, which is not what they really want. What they want are tests and investigations."

The screening requirements which cause most irritation to GPs include routinely offering height and urine tests, which are considered to be unnecessary and unscientific, and the requirement to seek out the healthy minority of patients who are not seen in the surgery from one year to the next. GPs who already run

health promotion clinics find they attract the healthiest, best educated and least needy.

Dr Michael Rayner of the Coronary Prevention Group agrees that two tests for heart disease - cholesterol and blood pressure measurements - are unlikely to be useful in isolation. "A doctor can hazard a guess that anyone who walks into the surgery is likely to have a high cholesterol level, because average levels in this country are unacceptably high by international standards. But on its own, a high cholesterol level does not mean you are going to die young of heart disease. Measuring it in the absence of other risk factors may cause unnecessary anxiety, or, if it is low, it may lead to false reassurance."

"Blood pressure should be measured every three to five years, but there is no use recording it without addressing the fact that the patient in question is a heavy smoker."

Dr Maurice Slevin, a cancer specialist at St Bartholomew's hospital, London, and the chairman of the cancer support charity, Baccup, strongly supports screening for breast and cervical cancer. "Tests for some other cancers are also available, but they are not nearly as good as people think, and they have costs, physically and emotionally."

"We cannot use whole body scanners to screen healthy patients because the tests would have to be repeated frequently to provide reassurance, subjecting people to high levels of radiation."

Paul Kind, a research fellow at the centre for health economics at York university, believes GPs are right to question the value of seeking out the patients who do not turn up at the surgery. "Talking the opportunity to screen patients when they come to see the doctor for some other reason, particularly the elderly, must be just as effective as setting up special programmes," he says.

"Having a battery of tests does not guarantee health. It simply means that the tests were unable to pick anything up at the precise moment they were administered."

ANN KENT

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**SIMPLY A MORE CONVENIENT ALTERNATIVE**



# The biggest book bang on earth

Michael Wright asks what the Edinburgh book festival is for, apart from selling books

Compared with the death of God and the death of English cricket (both announced, incidentally, in 1882), the death of the author may seem like small beer. Perhaps you weren't even aware that he or she or it was missing. Yet such is the case, and has been so ever since 1968, when the French structuralist critic Roland Barthes penned a brilliant and influential little essay consigning *l'auteur* to the proverbial *poubelle* with a Gallic flourish. Thankfully, the details of his argument need not concern us here; what matters is that the author as God-like creator is technically as dead as a Pythonesque parrot. Or is he?

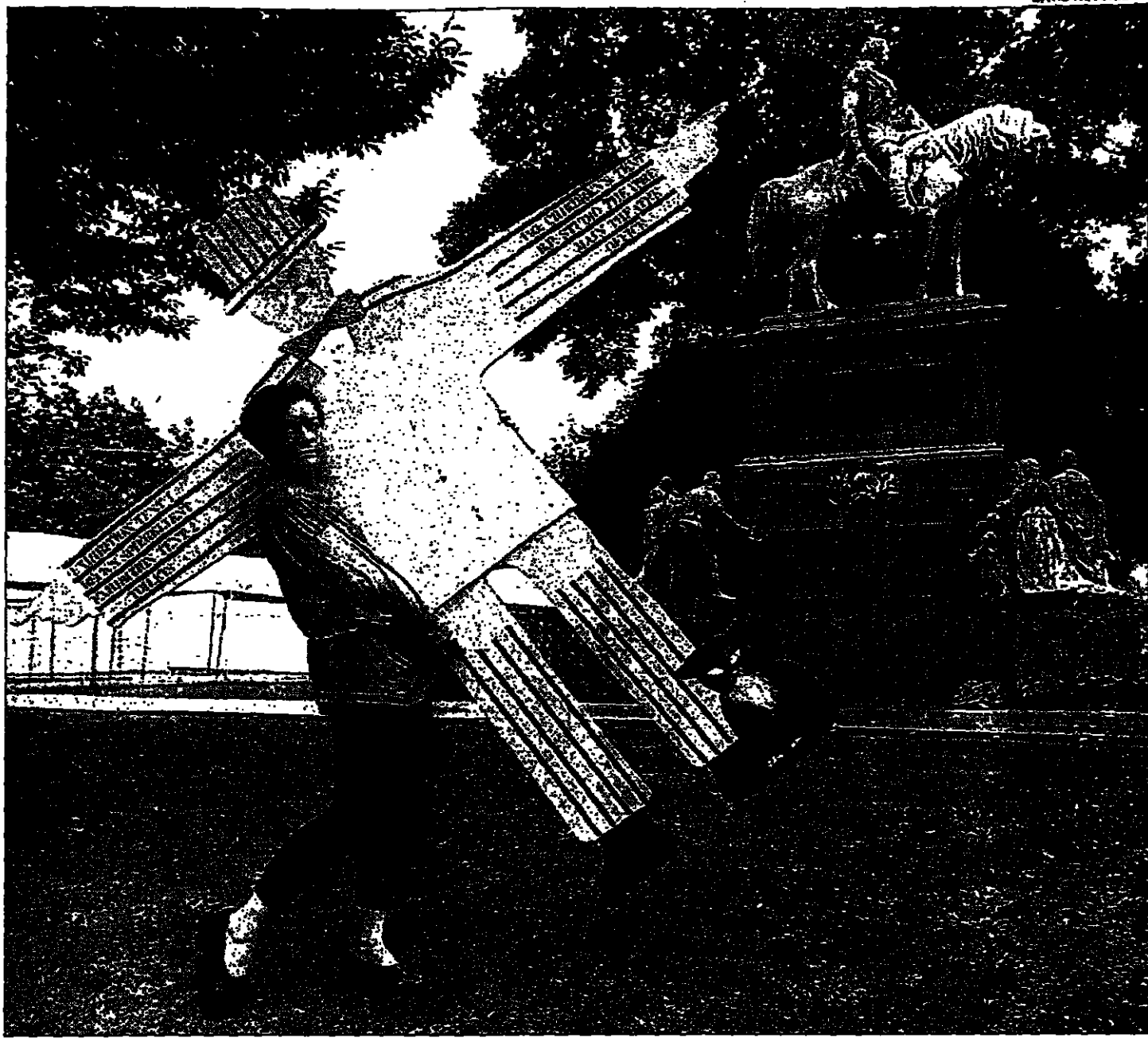
No way. Or at least, if he was, he's now coming back to life with a vengeance. Witness the growth — in size and stylishness — of smouldering dust-jacket mugshots; witness the number of post-modern novels in which the novelist will keep popping out of the shadows, Hitchcockily reminding us of his presence; witness the *spurge* of literary festivals, sprouting up all over the place in syncretic clumps; dusty jamborees complete with guest celebs and book signings and endless cups of stewed tea.

The cult of the author — the word made flesh — is upon us in a big way, and nowhere more so than in Edinburgh, where the fifth biennial book festival is about to start. This, as far as one can tell, is the biggest book festival of its kind in the world, outdoing both the Toronto Harbourfront and the Adelaide Writers' Week. Let alone Hay-on-Wye or Cheltenham. Sixty-five thousand visitors are

expected to flood their way through the gates of Charlotte Square Gardens; many out of simple curiosity, some in search of a safe haven from the freneticism of the rest of the Festival and Fringe; others — presumably — eager to meet and listen to some of the 200 authors who will be participating in 344 separate events spread over 17 days in seven hefty marquees.

Is this a good idea? The potential for disappointment seems enormous. The greater the creature, the more we expect from the creator. Foolish but true. Leonardo da Vinci was lucky enough to be gifted with as much beauty and charm as the artistic genius for which he is chiefly remembered. Take him to a party and you wouldn't find him alone in the kitchen, sketching the refrigerator. But think of Wagner, the original poison dwarf. Think of *Alice in Wonderland*, written by a child-molester. Life, all too easily, can cast a shadow over art.

Fortunately the book festival is run with exemplary efficiency, and director Jenny Brown and her team have assembled an impressively eclectic line-up of authors who should both pull in the crowds, and avoid major cringes. Numerous big-shots such as Mario Vargas Llosa, Peter Carey and Mary Wesley will be reading and talking about their work; James Kelman and Alesdair Gray head a strong Scottish contingent; P. D. James and Ruth Rendell will be comparing case notes as part of a "women in crime" theme. Yet all is not literary. Listen carefully, and you will hear the authentic squeak of the marker-pens of Rolf



As the tented literary caravanserai starts to go up in Charlotte Square, and lit celebs roll into town, so does a bookish signpost man

Harris, or the genuine sizzle of the work of Ken Hom, or the pseudo-Cockney of the voice of Nigel Kennedy. And if you fall into the kiddies category, there is a special programme of 70-odd events, with story tellings and puppet shows every day, as well as the invitingly squishy cushions of the Snarlies Reading Corner to sink into while mum and dad go and blow some dosh on a hod of new hardbacks. Aha. This is the other side of the

book festival. In two of the marquees, 200 publishers (including some that are incredibly small and obscure) will be exhibiting 10,000 different titles, all of which are available for sale, in 1989 visitors spent a staggering £125,000 on books in 17 days. Well then. Does that mean that all the individual events — the readings and discussions and demos — are merely side-shows; cosmetic appendages to hide the true face of

what is essentially little more than a glorified bookshop? Is the whole thing just a publishers' con trick? No. Of course publishers do have much to gain from the Festival in terms of raising their profiles, and book signing sessions produce a welcome fillip to sales. But this should not detract from the significant, positive aspects of an event that aims to stimulate more people to read more books, that provides a lively public forum

for an essentially sedentary private activity, and which — eschewing "bookishness" — lends that activity a smiling human face. The festivities begin at 11am on Saturday, when Douglas Adams will detonate one million (sic) Chinese firecrackers. This is an enviable task, despite carrying with it the risk of a whole new flare-up of that tricky death-of-the-author business. Let's hope that he does it carefully.

## Down in the ranks of Tuscany

John Nicholson

HAPPY ENDING

By Francesca Duranti

Heinemann, £13.99

INVITATION TO THE MARRIED LIFE

By Angela Huth

Sinclair-Stevenson, £13.95

MISCHIEF

By Chris Wilson

André Deutsch, £12.95

by the paucity of options open. But Aldo has a finely honed intelligence and an optimism born of a hair-raising childhood.

Viola, too, is an optimistic strategist. Another woman would surely have crumbled, if not at the sudden, scandalous death of her beloved elder son Filippo 20 years ago, then surely at the demands

made by two difficult and unrewarding daughters-in-law. Lavinia's need for soundless like Alessandro might have been foreseen, given the circumstances of her introduction to the family. But who would have guessed that Leopoldo's American bride Cynthia would have turned out to be such a cold fish? Viola turns it all over in her mind, as she attacks the weeds and searches for a foolproof plan to prevent things falling apart after her death. Aldo watches her with sympathy, eager to find his own dynasty.

Lavinia finally arrives, followed closely by an exquisite young stranger, who claims to be an old army friend of her son, Nicola. No one's met him before, but of course Marco has to be entertained until Nicky's return. And what could be more natural than that he should show down at Limonaia, with his friend's

mother? Aldo gnashes his teeth as Lavinia goes all funny, then confirms his worst fears.

There's more to the plot of *Happy Ending* than this — though not much — and a lot of skillful characterisation. The writing is delightfully smooth (a tribute to the translation of Annapaola Cancogni) but it is the book's optimism (even the ending is upbeat) which makes it a worthy successor to Francesca Duranti's engaging debut novel, *The House on Moon Lake*. Readers heading for Luca need look no further for their fix of local colour than this tale of the folks who live on the (next?) hill.

If on the other hand you prefer your toffs home-grown, you too are in luck. Angela Huth has carved out a comfortable little niche for her stories of the educated English middle classes. Invitation to the Married Life is

quintessential Huth, with locations in London, Oxford, Norfolk, Northamptonshire — and Nottingham. The latter a daring touch, you might think, but quite suitable for a bit of rough. Which is exactly what Thomas Arkwright finds — and, for a while, keeps — for his business trips oop North. Lefty Gillian isn't Tom's normal cup of tea, and she's disconcertingly accomplished in bed. But at least she's not Rachel Arkwright, the girl whose golden eyes stole his heart in Oxford in 1961. Now the eyes are a creamy dum — the colour of washing-up water — and she irritates him almost beyond endurance. No one regrets this more than Rachel, who increasingly takes refuge in a secret vice. Anywhere, at any time, for as long as she possibly can, Rachel simply falls asleep.

Occasionally, she gets drunk — notably, and catastrophically, on

an ill-judged return to Thomas's old college. Things come to a head at the Farthinghoe Ball, an event described by Miss Huth with an attention to detail worthy of Jennifer's Diary. Surprisingly, it is Rachel who gains the upper hand, at least briefly. Not much happens in a Huth novel, though the pages pass without pain.

A dip into the world of Chris Wilson, by contrast, is a nerve-jangling experience. Charlie, the hero of *Mischief*, is the last survivor of the Xique Xiques, rescued by a zoologist shortly before the rest of his tribe were wiped out by timber-hungry Brazilians. Almost human, and prevented from going the whole hog not so much by anatomical peculiarities as by a psychological reluctance to assume such human attributes as cruelty. Charlie has a hell of a time of it. Mr Wilson has a wicked sense of fun. But there is nothing remotely humorous about the enthusiasm with which he picks at the nastiest scabs disfiguring the face of *Homo sapiens*.

## Country living in style

HORROR

Anne Billson

WULF

By Steve Harris

Headline, £14.95

The heart sinks at the prospect of yet another werewolf novel, especially one that opts for a whimsically spelt title. But fear not, because Harris's second novel belongs not so much to the werewolf sub-genre as to the portrait-of-a-village. In this case the village is West Waltham, which appears to be somewhere near Basingstoke. As horror aficionados know, portrait-of-a-village means a detailed setting-up of a cross-section of country folk, who are then systematically corrupted by a malevolent life force or an ecologically unsound occurrence that makes them do exceedingly unpleasant things to one another. Harris's villagers are a pretty sleazy bunch to start with: a father who beats and rapes his children, a couple of psychotic acid casualties, some stray yuppies, upright old ladies with dark secrets, plus a sprinkling of cuckolds and adulterers. The catalysts are an ancient and mysteriously barren field called God's Teardrop, and a particularly nasty strain of mad cow disease which passes to humans and makes their brain go spongiform. In fact, the nasty events in the last part of the book (people chopped in half by shovels, minced up by combine harvesters, clubbed and burnt, and so on) are only marginally nastier than the characters themselves, with the exception of the salacious 14-year-old hero and his girlfriend. What the wulf has to do with bovine spongiform encephalopathy is anyone's guess, but in all, this is a suitably vicious slice of contemporary British life and a salutary antidote to Miss Read. Someone should definitely send a copy to the Min. of Ag.

*Reign of Fear: The Fiction and Film of Stephen King (1982-1989)*, edited by Don Herron (Pan, £4.99). This latest addition to the burgeoning King bibliography is one of the most diverting, thanks to contributions from the likes of Charles Willeford, Thomas M. Disch and Thomas Tressler. King's status is such that he now gets the honour, writer's equivalent of the



King of hair bristling

"Milton's Use of the Semi-Colon in Paradise Lost" treatment, and the most esoteric contribution here is from Ben F. Indick, who analyses King's employment of pharmaceutical brand names. Jack Torrance's dependence on Excedrin in *The Shining* shortly before he goes after his wife and child with a roque mallet, for example, or the character in *It* who slashes his wrists with Gillette Platinum Plus razor blades. Indick also lists King's mistakes ("another goof which gets the specialist chuckling..."). Even before one reaches the observation that "Darvon Compound consists of 65 milligrams of Darvon and 389 milligrams of aspirin", one is already convinced that this is marvellous, and quite barney.

*Slice*, by Rex Miller (Pan, £3.99). Thanks to *Silence of the Lambs* and *American Psycho*, serial killers are suddenly all the rage, but they've always been a staple ingredient of the splatter genre. *Slice* is the sequel to *Slob*, in which we were introduced to "Changang", a 46lb monstrosity whose killing skills had been sharpened to a fine point in Vietnam. Miller short-circuitedly bumped him off at the end of the first book, but you can't keep a good psycho down, and in *Slice* he comes bouncing back to take revenge on the cop who shot him. Miller delivers his enormous body count at a suitably neck-breaking pace, throws in a sub-plot involving Hong Kong Triads and a bent detective, and pulls off a particularly droll coup by having his killer sidetracked by domesticity, diets and paternal instincts.

"It is a myth that polo is expensive," says Julian Daniels, the youngest player of Millfield's team and a GCSE candidate. "If you can afford to keep a horse you can afford to play polo."



In Friday's TES Janette Wolf watches the opening chukkas in the inaugural schools' polo tournament.

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

## The Caledonian pesle mesle poets 'n' haggis

Robert Nye

COLLECTED POEMS

By Norman MacCaig

Chatto & Windus, £18

COLLECTED POEMS

By Edwin Morgan

Corgi, £25

SECOND NATURE

By James Aitchison

Aberdeen University Press, £6.50

in that, even where he knows the necessity of attempting to define the thing-in-itself, what he actually does is to describe and then lecture himself anxiously on the perils of solipsism. This particular tack does lead to some pleasing lines, though, especially where he perceives an almost magical link between word and object.

I'll say  
a rainy thing and snails  
will shine on walls under  
their cockle-hats, peaceful  
pilgrims  
without staffs.

It is for moments like this that one values MacCaig. For the rest, it must be noted that early and late he has tended to produce poems where an over-decorative usage of adjectives blurs definition, in that the poet pursues the pattern suggested by the decoration rather than the object he set out to celebrate. Sometimes, as in a thin piece of whimsy such as "Flood Mind", a single metaphor is turned inside out or upside down, and then made to do the work of a poem, wandering down the page



Norman MacCaig: unco countrie

with an air of discovery that the actual language never reports. This, though, is to criticise from the highest standards a genuine and still active poet, and one who at his best wrote the beautiful "Poem for a Goodbye", of which this is the first stanza:

When you go through  
My absence, which is all of you,  
And clouds, or suns, no more can  
be my sky,  
My one dissembling will be all —  
The inclusive lie  
Of being this voice, this look,  
these few feet tall.

Edwin Morgan, who has been as prolific as MacCaig, does not seem to me to have written much that can be compared with this in point of embodying deep feelings tellingly expressed. On the other hand, his work has qualities of comedy quite rare in modern verse, and his restless exploration of a variety of forms bespeaks a frisky intelligence. What his poems have in common is their ingenuity, which is always put at the service of an imagination determined to be different.

Trying to give his flavour is like trying to give the flavour of a whole sweetshop. "The Domes of Saint Sophia" may serve to represent him at his most serious. Here he pits a preference for the human and the transient against the perfections of religion, and particularly against the delights of Christian architecture:

I know they are beautiful,  
let the eye delight in them.

Now I don't know whether this is true or not, but I believe that Morgan means it. As for his more pyrotechnical pieces, the sound-poems and the sonnet sequences that aspire to the condition of Marianne, sometimes it seems that only another Glaswegian with the poet's own background and emotional and intellectual experiences could possibly understand them. I am reminded of Morgan's own story at the start of his essay "The Beatnik in the Kailyard", where he tells how he met two little girls in Kelvingrove Park in Glasgow, girls who had been scared by a man who had followed them with much menace, the nature of the menace being verbally epitomised: "He spoke kinna English." Morgan speaks kinna English too, while being kinna Scottish. His pesle mesle poems are worth your perseverance.

James Aitchison is a Scottish poet of a younger generation and the interesting thing about his book *Second Nature* is that the poems in it avoid all flirtation with any kind of Celtic confusion, reaching back in their clarity and straightforward strength of feeling to the work of his earlier compatriots Edwin Muir and Norman Cameron. Even this praise does no justice to Aitchison's individuality. "I Watched You Walking" and "Three Poems in March" are tender love poems, while "Interlude: Heloise and Babington" and "Antarctica" are successful attempts to make poetry do some of the things usually left to the novel these days. This is Aitchison's third collection, and it confirms him as a writer determined to concern himself with the distance between the heart's affections and what the head can find to say.

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

# Recycled dudes, nudes and platitudes

Geoff Brown reviews

*Teenage Mutant  
Ninja Turtles II:  
The Secret of the  
Ooze, plus Return to  
the Blue Lagoon,  
Recollections of the  
Yellow House and  
The Last Woman*

Just when you thought the Turtle fad was safely waning, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze* (PG, Plaza, Cannon Haymarket) erupts — say, ooze — across the country. Superficially, this live-action sequel of the age's greatest comic-strip and licensing phenomenon bears all the expected hallmarks. The mutant heroes eat far more pizzas than medically advisable; they battle their human adversary, the Shredder, by strutting, kicking and tumbling through New York's unloveliest places. They converse in the finest Californian teenpeak: "Wohl!", "Hey, dude!" and "Cowabunga!"

Look more closely, though, and it is clear these are *Turtles* Mark Two. The first film, though a sizeable hit in America, attracted significant parental opposition. Parents complained about its violence and visual gloom, about the difficulties in telling one Turtle from another (headscarves apart), and the unseemly slew of product plugs. Since these *Turtle* spin-offs stand or fall by consumer demand, the moans were taken seriously.

So, under Michael Pressman's direction, bright lights replace the dark sewer terrain; and the *Ninja* kicks lose their savage abandon as the *Turtles* battle to stop the Shredder getting hold of the ooze that caused their mutation. The script rises separating the *Turtle* quartet (created as before by Jim Henson's Creature Shop), but only Michaelangelo — the impetuous one in the orange scarf — makes any real impression.

Plugs for non-Turtle consumer goods are largely absent, though in a fraternal salute to another licensing phenomenon, David Warner (cast as a bow-tied expert on toxic waste) pours a chemical cocktail into a glass decorated with the image of Bart Simpson.

For any adult dragged unwillingly into the cinema, such changes make the film more palatable than its predecessor, though just as deadly dull. For younger children, the plot should be much easier to grasp. Older children get their



Coffee break time for a chelonian crusader: Michaelangelo (left) relaxes with Paige Turco in Michael Pressman's *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze*

reward when the *Turtles* crash into a nightclub featuring rap artist Vanilla Ice, and create a new dance sensation: *Ninja rap*.

As for the sequel's financiers, they are already in clover: made for \$20 million (£11.7 million), the film has earned almost four times that much at the domestic box-office.

The coffers are also filling for *Surge Licensing Inc.*, who control the *Turtles*' spin-off empire, and have saturated the market-place with T-shirts, mugs, breakfast cereals, pizza-flavoured crisps, and "frosty" snacks soaked in simulated green ooze: tastier still. You cannot say you have not been warned.

At least the week's other juvenile film, *Return to the Blue Lagoon* (12, Plaza, Cannon Oxford Street), is merchandise-free. The *Turtles* on view are the lumbering, seafaring kind; and it is hard to imagine what any licensing outfit could snatch from this vacuous sequel to the 1980 Brooke Shields epic, unless they were thinking of marketing the young heroine's distinctive forehead mole.

As before, the film-makers dip into the forgotten writings of H. de Vere Stacpoole, who published *The*

*Blue Lagoon* in 1908; a later novel, *The Garden of God*, provides the source for this new witless fantasy about teenage innocence on a Pacific island. Milla Jovovich, a 15-year-old model with sumptuous cover-girl looks, strides into view after 45 minutes, once the shipwrecked heroine reaches puberty. Company on the lagoon includes the mewling babe born to Brooke Shields in the 1980 film,

nothing to do but admire the scenery and roll with the clichés.

Jovovich grasps her role with more authority than the 15-year-old Shields managed; but since the film lacks any fresh inspiration, Hollywood might just as well have saved on production expenses and re-issued its predecessor. Let us not forget the very first *Blue Lagoon*, too — sturdily made by Frank Launder in 1948 at a time when

house, commandingly played with a myriad of shuffles, slow blinks and deadpan stares by the director himself, 50-year-old João César Monteiro. By the end of the film — it would be wrong to speak of a climax — the hero has left the boarding house for a lunatic asylum, though some might perceive little difference.

Definitely no Adonis, the scrappy, hook-nosed director shambles through elliptical scenes at a pace lethargic enough to drive one to distraction or cast a hypnotic spell: it largely depends on the audience's frame of mind. At the Venice Film Festival in 1989, hypnosis prevailed: the film won a Silver Lion. Here in a muggy August, one fears for its chances, though anybody attuned to introspective, Dostoevskian heroes (Monteiro modelled the title on *Notes from the House of the Dead*) will find rich pickings.

Visually, too, there is much of interest. The static shots, punctuated periodically by an ambulating camera, delight the receptive eye with their crystal-clear hues, intriguing framing and fierce concentration on surfaces: bare dirty walls, blue ceramic tiles and a mattress stained by a botched

abortion. This is cinema gloriously unfettered by reason, convention and the demands of commerce: a rare bird in summer's silly season.

As if the week's films were not perverse enough, the Barbican Cinema dredges up the spectacle of a curly-haired Gérard Depardieu, circa 1975, striding about in the buff in Marco Ferreri's *The Last Woman* (18). The film has three performances this weekend at the start of a month-long salute to Depardieu, the prime hulk of modern French cinema; the season ranges from key early films such as Bertrand Blier's anarchic *Les Valseuses* (1973) to Depardieu's own directorial debut, *Tartuffe*, which was made in 1984.

Ferreri, already indicating the traits that would make him one of the silliest directors currently working, plunges the viewer into a whirlpool of unedifying talk about family life and the sexual battle-ground. Depardieu, pacing constantly round a drab high-rise apartment, gives the film's best performance as a chauvinist forced to reassess his prejudices; but there is little fun or edification in the director's parade of unlikeable people doing unlikeable things. Better rarities lie in store elsewhere.

*'For any adult, changes make the film more palatable than its predecessor, though just as deadly dull'*

who sprouts into a bland television hunk called Brian Krause; a passing boat of Australians; and the heroine's mother (Lisa Pelikan), a minister's widow who nurtures her charges, gives them a biology lesson, and expires.

"Everything's so confusing," Jovovich bleats to her mother's gravestone when sexual instincts flare and her plumbing starts acting up. But not confusing to the audience. Director William Graham — veteran of many television movies (some better than average) — signals every narrative move way in advance, leaving audiences

British audiences could still get excited by the prospect of glimpsing Donald Houston's nipples. Those were the days.

Recollections of the *Yellow House* (18, Resoir) is this week's offering for the connoisseur: a Portuguese commandment which invites consideration of a bizarre range of topics, from bedbugs, jockstraps and a police military band to Holderlin's *The Death of Empedocles*, Colombian bananas, and the drinking of a nubile girl's bathwater. Our guide through the absurd labyrinth is a desiccated resident of a Lisbon boarding

BRITISH CINEMA

## Is this the final roundup for raiders of the lost treasury?

The switchback career of the British cinema has hit its lowest point. In January, *Variety*, the world show-business oracle, wrote, "If there isn't an upturn soon, the pundits predict, the industry's infrastructure will begin to unravel. Once the process starts it could be hard to stop, and films could go too far to get back up."

Production last year dropped to an all-time low of fewer than 30 films, mainly with very small budgets (France made 130 films). Between 1984 and 1990 investment shrank from £275 million to £137 million.

The ills of the production side of the industry began to grow acute in 1985, when the government abolished the Eady Levy, which had functioned since 1950. This was a charge on box-office earnings, most of which was returned to producers of British films. Today the Eady Levy would have contributed some £20 million a year to production.

In 1986 the abolition of the capital allowances scheme removed the last tax incentive to film investment and virtually ended private and City involvement in films. In the Eighties the American companies brought capital and employment by producing their big blockbusters (the *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* films among them) here, using British talent. Punitive taxation of visiting stars and a weak dollar have driven them away. The final blow has been the withdrawal of the independent television companies from film production, as they await the franchise decisions.

The awful irony is that film production in Britain is starving to possible extinction in a world of plenty. The consumption of films has never been so great. Cinema attendances in this country leapt from 53 million in 1984 to around 100 million last year. The video market is now worth about a billion pounds a year. Television shows around 2,000 films a year, and BSkyB adds at least a thousand more.

Producers, however, are the last to benefit from this new prosperity. The fatal organ-

In the first of three articles on the domestic film industry, David Robinson looks at government help and hindrance



Made in Britain: Harrison Ford in the 1981 production, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

izational weakness of the British film industry is the separation of production from distribution and exhibition: just as the major strength of Hollywood is that the distributors are also the financiers.

Under the British system, the financier is the first to invest but the last to recoup, after exhibitors, distributors and the rest have taken their cut. It is as if a jam manufacturer had to wait until the last jar was emptied before any income filtered back through the tills of the shops, the advertisers and the retailers.

A year ago at this time, however, there was a glimmer of light in the darkness. The British industry found a friend in Mrs Thatcher. Sir Richard Attenborough, communicated the woes of British cinema to

with government assistance of 3 million Ecu via British Screen Finance).

Her concern appears, however, to have been less with the disadvantage of Britain than the advantage of the rest: she is reported to have said to the then film minister Eric Forth: "Leon must do something about this. This is grossly unfair. These subsidies must come down."

Will Stevenson, director of the British Film Institute and one of the most active members of the working party set up after the seminar, says: "We asked for six points. A year on, we have achieved three of them. We asked the government to do a U-turn on Europe and start supporting the Media Programme, which they have done. They have appointed a films commissioner to try to promote foreign production in this country. Most important they have set up a £5 million fund to assist co-production with Europe over three years."

The Treasury, however, has remained adamant in refusing fiscal reforms to aid the plagued industry; and the government is likely to stand firm against any legislation to help plough back more of the distribution income into production. Suggestions for levies on blank videotape and for legislation to require American distributors to set aside a proportion of their British earnings for production in this country have found no favour.

The now-you-see-them-now-you-don't nature of film ministers makes things no easier. Lord Reay is the third minister since the seminar. Lord Heslth, who preceded him, at least cheered the working party by admitting he actually liked films.

A near-fatally encephaled British cinema faces the future poised between America and the Europe of 1992. Is it about to be launched on its biggest adventure, or cast helpless between Scylla and Charybdis? In subsequent articles I will be discussing the future of British films in their relation to Hollywood and to the new European cinema.

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**Rollexa**



Conor Cruise O'Brien argues that a compromise between de Klerk and the ANC is the best that South Africa can hope for

Over the weekend the South African media were preoccupied with the rescue of the passengers and crew of the *Oceanos* off the Transkei coast. Whites are delighted with the international coverage given to the successful rescue operation by the air force and navy. So it will not be long before voices on the left are heard claiming that the forces sabotaged the *Oceanos* for the kudos of the ensuing rescue. Politics cannot be kept out of even a shipwreck here.

Five years ago, few people, if any, ago foresaw political changes on the scale that we have seen. Post-apartheid South Africa has already arrived. P.W. Botha's government got rid of much of what was called petty apartheid. Mr de Klerk has brought down the pillars of grand apartheid, including the Population Registration Act and the Group Areas Act.

White supremacy, however, remains intact, though without the neurotic and inflicting insistence on keeping it to the fore through systematic daily interference in the lives of non-whites. For that relief, some thanks: polls show that de Klerk is popular with black

## Sinking differences is the way ahead

people, and very popular with coloureds and Asians.

What South Africa has now is essentially the pre-apartheid condition plus the heavy heritage of apartheid. The millions of people who were moved around, this way and that, at the whim of apartheid's social engineers are still displaced, and likely to remain so. And the underlying social problems — unemployment and crime — are on a scale undreamt-of before apartheid. So is political violence between black factions.

Post-apartheid South Africa is in search of a constitution. It is unlikely to find one without further serious political and social strife. The expectations and intentions of the National Party and the ANC are still widely divergent, at least among the rank and file.

Mr de Klerk and his colleagues, despite their theoretical commitment to non-racial elections, intend and expect to exercise preponderant authority within

power-sharing arrangements in the future, though they don't admit it publicly. It is on this understanding that Mr de Klerk's course has been approved, so far, by the majority in the white community and by the security establishment. If he appeared to be going any further in the direction of black majority rule, his authority would cease to be legitimate in their eyes. The state would then be in turmoil, and military rule might follow. There are already limits to civilian control over the security forces, as Inkatha showed.

The ANC, on the other hand, intends and expects to become the government of South Africa through non-racial elections on a common roll. It would offer certain guarantees for minorities, including the white minority, but these would be far less substantial than those Mr de Klerk believes he can hold in place through arrangements of his own. The in-



In the same boat: the *Oceanos*

compatibility of the two sides' objectives must emerge starkly during the negotiations, which are then bound to break down.

When I referred to the likelihood of such a breakdown, during one of many conversations on my South African travels of the last three weeks, my interlocutor demurred, saying that Mr de Klerk

could not afford to let it happen, because if he did "the ANC would make South Africa ungovernable, and sanctions would be back".

There are two serious flaws in this thesis. The first is that South Africa is already ungovernable, and precisely in those areas where it is claimed that the ANC can make it so. The ANC can make things worse through strikes and boycotts, but it is unlikely that such a campaign would bring back sanctions. If Mr de Klerk can induce his police to keep a low profile — staying out of the townships as much as possible — the international community will be disposed to put the blame for the trouble on the ANC rather than the government. The influence of the ANC over international affairs has declined in the last 18 months, while Mr de Klerk's has risen. Inkatha did not seriously disturb that pattern. I believe that when it finds that its ultimate objectives cannot be

attained by negotiation, the ANC will resort to a protest campaign. But having failed to achieve its aims, this campaign will end in recriminations, having hurt blacks much more than whites.

At that point, some of the ANC leaders are likely to see that they can exert more leverage if they accept a role in power-sharing: no doubt a larger role than Mr de Klerk is at present willing to concede, but still one within the kind of arrangements he now has in mind. They could reasonably hope to achieve a leading role eventually, and in the meantime to consolidate their support by securing material benefits for the black community, especially in the fields of education, housing and welfare. ANC leaders prepared to accept this role would be denounced as "selling out", but those denouncing them would have nothing credible to offer in place of their compromise.

In short I think that things are

now moving, bumpily enough, in the direction of what Professor David Welsh has called "inter-racial oligarchy". That may be the best system available to South Africa, for this century at least.

Elections on a basis of one person, one vote and on a common roll would be impeccably democratic, in terms of process, but would not be likely to result in a stable working democracy, under present conditions. Despite the liberal and democratic views of its best known leaders, especially Nelson Mandela, the spirit of the ANC remains authoritarian and intolerant of all deviation from the party line. This has been evident for some time in its dealings with dissidents in the townships, with black journalists and with persons expressing heterodox opinions in universities. These authoritarian tendencies would be more marked, and much more dangerous if the ANC were in power. I hope, therefore, that Mr de Klerk's policies will succeed, and that he will find able allies outside the white community. Together they may be able to lay the bases of a genuine democracy.

Philip Howard on literary Lyme Regis

## Lament for one writer's haven

John Fowles is being too apologetic when he blames himself for "the grockles", or tourists, who are ruining Lyme Regis. *The French Lieutenant's Woman* is a romantic novel with the characteristic Fowles trick ending. And the film was extremely popular, opening with Meryl Streep looking sultrily inviting on the Cobb. Yesterday Mr Fowles described Lyme as a mini-Blackpool, and expressed a wish to take a machine-gun to the riders of jet-skis, whose motors shatter the calm of his town.

What we have here is a virulent case of writer's Nymphomania, or Not in My Peaceful Haven of Writing. The opinion that the world is changing for the worse, and that the vulgar masses are ruining it with their candyfloss and other horrid pursuits, is an old literary vice. It fuelled the Georgian poets and the whole vast genre of English pastoral melancholy, from Thomas Gray onwards. Thomas Hardy and A.E. Housman would have been dumb without it. Nostalgia for an (imaginary) golden past, and the sense that common newcomers are going to spoil it all, is a very English literary pose. You can see it in the blessedly unspoiled Forest of Arden.

Lyme Regis was on the literary map well before John Fowles went to live there. Celia Fennell visited it on one of her literary jaunts at the end of the 17th century, and noted the most prominent feature of the town: "They have been at great charge to build a Mold from the town, like a half moon, which they call the Cobb. It is raised with a high wall, and this runs into the sea a good compass, that the ships ride safely within it." Zoom in on Meryl Streep, pouting and looking enigmatic.

The little seaside resort, at the meeting place of steep roads from east and west and north, with the green and gold caps of the Dorset cliffs marching into the distance around the curve of Lyme Bay, became famous in the late 18th century, when the British began to bathe. Jane Austen was one of the first grockles.

In a letter to her sister Cassandra on September 14, 1804, she describes a visit to Lyme with her parents, James the coachman, and Jenny the maid. She gives an account of an evening spent at the weekly ball at the Assembly Rooms (now a car park). She also went to Cobb Gate, at the eastern end of the Marine Parade, and loved bathing in the sea. No doubt the locals complained that the tourists were ruining the place with their noise and nasty habits.

Eleven years later, Austen drew on her memories of this and other visits to the town when she was writing *Persuasion* and planning the young people's expedition to Lyme. The Cobb is familiar to many people who have never heard of Meryl Streep as the place of Louisa Musgrove's dramatic fall. Bay Cottage (now a cafe selling candyfloss) at the west end of the Marine Parade is the place where Captain Harville took rooms for the winter season, and where Louisa stayed to convalesce.

Above Black Ven cliff in 1811, Mary Anning and her brother discovered the prehistoric fish lizard called Ichthyosaurus. Around these cliffs Edmund Gosse and his fanatical fundamentalist father, Philip, hunted for fossils. Edmund saving up his memories for *Father and Son*. Peter Carey recalled them in *Oscar and Lucinda*, which won the Booker Prize a couple of years ago. Lyme is as thick with literary associations as it is with fossils and grockles.

Mass tourism destroys the thing it comes to see. This is happening to Stonehenge, Oxford and Cambridge, and our cathedrals. We must try to divert the lemming hordes into areas where they can do least harm, by changing, and providing alternatives. But what we cannot do is pull up the drawbridge and say "T'n all writer, Jack Grockles keep out." The English are fundamentally a democratic and Bolshie lot. This is a national characteristic quite as strong as pastoral poetic nostalgia.

Before anybody heaves half a brick at me, let me say that if Winston Silcott was not the murderer of Constable Keith Blacklock, nor an accessory to the murder, he should not be in prison for the crime, and another miscarriage of justice has taken place. Whether it has, I do not know.

Others have no doubt, notably Miss Zoe Heller. Her account, in *The Independent*, is not a claim that he is innocent; she simply assumes as much, adding for good measure the two other men convicted of the murder ("All three protest their innocence to this day..." — well, that proves it, obviously). Having assumed it, she goes on to argue that the picture of Silcott painted initially by the trial judge, who called him "vicious and evil" was followed and multiplied by the police and parts of the press. Her point is that Silcott has been "demonised" and so unable to prove his innocence.

Now let me make a comment; two, actually. There is not the slightest suggestion anywhere in her thousands of words that he could be guilty, or even that if he were guilty "vicious and evil" would be a reasonably fitting description. On the contrary, he is portrayed throughout not just as a victim but as a hero. Moreover, Miss Heller's story runs to 37 paragraphs; not one of them (she allows a single quote from someone else, but only to denounce it) even hints at the fact that when Silcott's trial for the murder of the policeman began Silcott had been charged with another murder, and convicted of it.

Yes, Winston did stab Anthony Smith... a member of a local gang... The gang were after him because he had tried to stop them from... extorting money... from a young boy... Three of them rushed him with knives, and he responded by stabbing one... "What could I do?... let them kill me?"... Silcott... explained that he had acted in self-defence. He was persuaded... to plead not guilty. It was poor advice.

That exquisite paragraph alone would be my case. "Yes Winston" (how charming) "did stab Anthony Smith" (shucks); "...a member of a local gang"; "(clearly the aggressor); "the gang were after him" (premeditated,

too); "...tried to stop them..." (fearless for right and law); "...from... extorting money..." (fearless for law and right); "...from a young boy..." (Galahad lives); "...Three of them rushed him with knives..." (bravely facing overwhelming odds); "...he responded by stabbing one..." (only one? — such moderation); "...What could I do?... let them kill me?" (well, not run away, presumably); "...explained that he had acted in self-defence..." (that should have ended the argument, surely); "...persuaded..." (oh, those persuasive lawyers); "...to plead not guilty..." (well, he wasn't guilty, was he?); "It was poor advice..." (nothing is his fault).

Now let us look at the life of Winston Silcott before he was convicted of murdering Anthony Smith and charged with murdering Constable Blacklock. Miss Heller offers her hero's portrait, touched up with gold. She tells us that a close friend of the Silcotts described them to her as "a family still in mourning", and she adds "It is true". (Come to think of it, it must be a hell of a lot truer of the Blacklock and Smith families.)

We learn of young Winston's regular church-going, his brilliance at football, his cleverness; then it all goes wrong, because he "started getting into trouble with the police"; naturally, it was all the fault of the police when "he began acquiring convictions for petty burglary". "He was a good boy," says his mother, "but from day one the police played with him like a rat with a piece of cheese." Unfair, because "if you said something to him and it wasn't right, he'd tell you straight."

Well, fairly straight; at the time of the Blacklock trial, Silcott had been convicted for burglary and theft, handling stolen goods, burglary and theft again, burglary and



Smile and smile, but consider it possible that he may be a villain

handling stolen goods, malicious wounding, burglary and breach of probation, possession of offensive weapon, obstructing police, and murder. (What strikes a reader of his record is the extraordinary lenience of his judicial treatment; his crimes were punished by, successively, conditional discharge, two years' probation, Borstal training, Borstal training again, six months prison, 200 hours community service and a £5 fine, £50 fine, £50 fine again, and — at last — life imprisonment for the Smith murder.)

But the scene disposes something much bigger than the fate of one young man with a criminal record of impressive length

including two convictions for murder, not necessarily unjustified. Miss Heller is naïve, but nothing worse; what is more troubling is the undertone that can be heard beneath her apology. The undertone is not, I am sure, consciously audible to her. But in the world beyond Winston Silcott's brief and troubled life it is becoming louder, to describe the sound, however, I must be somewhat blunter than many people might wish.

We are being told, and beginning to believe, that if someone is simultaneously poor, young and black he *cannot* (see practically every word of Miss Heller's article) be a criminal. Or if he is, it is

not his fault, but that of whitey, the police, the judges, the schools, the environment and society, particularly society. Or, more likely still, he was innocent but framed — by whitey, the police, the judges, the schools, the environment and society, particularly society.

Even as I sat down to write these words, I read the story of the family who complained to a publicly-funded race-relations body that although they got on well with their Asian and West Indian neighbours, one family among these was in the habit of constantly shouting abuse at them. The family was told that there was no redress available; the race-relations organisation refuses to take cognisance of racial abuse by persons of colour, only abuse of such persons.

We must be realistic; plenty of young black youths have indeed been fitted up by crooked policemen, though it would be going rather far to claim that both Silcott's homicide convictions existed only in the minds of over-imaginative coppers. But there is a difference between a claim that a black youth has been falsely accused and a claim that because he is a black youth the accusation can only be false.

Yet if several thousand words about Winston Silcott by an intelligent woman (certainly an assiduous one) can be written without the slightest nod in the direction of the possibility that he could be guilty of anything, we have come close to precisely that situation. And that, I maintain, is a situation we ought not to get near.

I do not know how our race-relations can be so improved that there will never be any friction between people of differing hues nor do I know when the very last bent policeman will leave the force; nor do I know, even roughly, the date on which the universe will become perfect. But I do know that the first two puzzles will be solved long before the third, though even those two will not be settled to everybody's satisfaction by the Christmas after next. Meanwhile, I do not think that the solution to any of the three will be brought closer by the canonisation of Winston Silcott.

...and moreover

## CRAIG BROWN

The day before yesterday I examined how over the past year or so, my own county of Essex has become a journalistic byword for all that is common and creepy and pushy in Britain today. I fear that I myself may have contributed a little to this monstrous calumny. The jokester is bound to make jokes about his own backyard, and in the past I have made fun of the Essex propensity for keeping a rusting vehicle suspended on a fragile network of bricks in one's front garden. But these are jokes made by an insider — I myself have maintained a wheeled Ford in scrupulously rusty condition in my front garden for over three years — and my intention was always meretricious rather than scorn.

It is now clear that a full-scale defence of Essex must be mounted. There is, of course, the traditional, and perfectly justified, defence that large parts of the county are very pretty indeed, as Sir John Betjeman noted in his poem "Essex", remembering:

The deepest Essex few explore,  
Where steepest thatch is sunk in  
And out of elm and sycamore  
Rise flinty fifteenth century  
towers.

There are one or two other examples of literary backing for the beauty of Essex — Mrs Knightley in *Emma*, for instance, stoutly defends her choice of Southend for her holidays, saying that she "never found the least inconvenience from the mud" — but most of

these defences, like Mrs Knightley's, have something rather half-hearted and against-all-odds about them. (It should also be admitted that the literary defence of Essex is hardly unanimous: Charles Dickens, alas, dubbed poor old Chelmsford "the dullest and most stupid spot on the face of the Earth".)

For a more far-sighted defence, a defence designed to mature over centuries rather than minutes, I suggest that those of us in Essex should turn our Essex Man reputation to good use. There are already signs that this is happening.

Dick Turpin was a local lad, a child of Essex through and through. He was born in the village of Hempstead, the son of the innkeeper. The Crown Inn now proudly displays a sign declaring it to be the birthplace of Dick Turpin, and the attractive cottage opposite bears another sign saying that it was his home. Legend has it that the gigantic oak nearby is where Turpin found refuge from his pursuers. What could be more romantic, more English, less common and creepy than the legend of Dick Turpin?

Yet, in his own time, Turpin would have been scorned as the most grotesque possible example of Essex Man. He was, after all, a common crook who conformed exactly to the Essex Man caricature of one who has picked up a dishonest penny in the East End and is now lying low in the country. Having been apprenticed to a butcher in White-

chapel, Turpin was discovered stealing cattle from a farmer in Plaistow. To avoid being caught, he immediately retreated back to Hempstead.

Nor were his crimes quite so dashing as history has since suggested. From his attractive thatched cottage, Turpin would select isolated farmhouses for attack, first making sure that all male occupants were away. With a gang of thugs, he would then torture the women until they surrendered their valuables. He was eventually arrested as a horse-thief (he stole Black Bess from a Mr Major in Epping, oddly enough in the company of one Tom King), and was hanged at York in 1739.

Within the space of a century, Dick Turpin had been transformed from common little yob and unabashed moneygrubber into bold English wayfarer, the very first King of the Road, the great adventurer of book and ballad.

There is much hope here for Norman Tebbit and Harvey Proctor, for Mrs Gorman and Mr Mudd, and for all of us who live and work in Essex. Britain has the happy knack of allowing history to turn villains into heroes.

You can be pretty sure that the Essex characters who now inspire such fear and loathing among the better-bred will, towards the end of the next century, be celebrated in school play and pantomime, grand English heroes one and all. The Legend of Norman Tebbit. The Ballad of Teresa Gorman. Oh, to be an Essex Man in 2091!

## Cheap salmon and cucumber

EVEN the Garrick Club, that bastion of the literary and theatrical establishment, has fallen victim to the recession. The latest annual accounts of the 160-year-old London club, members of which include the Prince of Wales, Sir John Gielgud and Sir Richard Attenborough, reveal that only royalty income from A.A. Milne's estate is keeping it in the black.

The confidential report, which has just been released to members, predicts an increase of up to 10 per cent in the £670 a year subscription fee. The 1,280 members may also face a further increase in the cost of their lunches which are among the cheapest in clubland.

The report by Martin Harvey, the Garrick's secretary, concludes for the first time that the "club's major source of income, its catering operation, does not do not break even". While the club's overdraft has fallen considerably, it is still slightly larger than the contingency fund. The accounts show a net surplus of £69,440, but the report says this is "wholly attributable... again, to an exceptionally high royalty income of £99,800". Many members are questioning how the club will survive when the Milne bequest runs out in 15 years.

Drastic changes may be required, but none so drastic as admitting women as members. There is a growing feeling that the club may soon have to take this bold step. A secret cabal was plotting earlier this year to confront opponents of the change by putting up Peggy Ashcroft for membership, so defying them to blackball the claim of one of the nation's most celebrated actresses. Since her death they have been trying to agree on another woman with so strong a claim.



Lord Rees-Mogg, a member since 1961, would have no qualms about admitting women: "I am in favour. There is a ten-year waiting list, so they would not get in until next century. It would not be fair for them to jump the queue." Sir Kingsley Azis is not so even-handed. "Never," he says. Would women want to join? Victoria Glendinning says: "It's the only chaps' club I would be interested in joining. Most are full of gentlemen; the Garrick is full of deliciously ungentlemanly gentlemen."

● The world may be excited about the possible release of the Western hostages in Beirut, but are they? Brian Keenan, who was held for more than four years, says: "If my experiences are anything to go by, they will still be cooped up in their cells with no knowledge of their captors' scheme. They won't have any idea of what is going on. They will be the last to know."

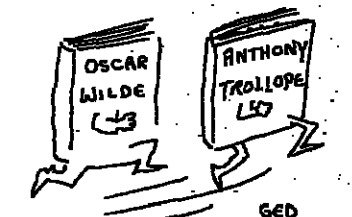
## By writes

A POSTHUMOUS battle is raging between Anthony Trollope and Oscar Wilde. Which of the two will be commemorated first, if at all, at Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey? Earlier this year, Trollope's case was being pressed by John Major, who has taken several of Trollope's novels on holiday.

But the Very Reverend Michael

Mayne, Dean of Westminster, is unmoved by the pressure from on high, and has reserved his verdict until September. Much to the disgust of Trollope fans, he is considering whether the claims of Oscar Wilde are superior. "I would rather not express a personal preference," says the Dean. "There is no hurry. You want to get it right if

The unacceptable in pursuit of the indigestible



the person is going to be there for ever." He is seeking advice to determine whether Wilde fulfils the three conditions for immortality at the Abbey: that the literary contribution is significant, that it will be remembered in 100 years, and more subtly, "was this person so militantly ethical that it would destroy his integrity to fetch him into the church?" Perhaps Trollope is the safer bet.

## Exclusive leak

THIS may be the last time the National Eisteddfod festival calls itself royal. A motion to drop the word has been proposed for the next meeting of the Eisteddfod Council. The first hint came when the giant Eisteddfod logo was unveiled at the start of this year's festival and the word royal was seen to be missing. Pressure has been building for it to be dropped, in protest at the absence from the festival of the royal family. The

last visit by Prince Charles was in 1969, shortly after his investiture as the Prince of Wales.

Buckingham Palace comments: "There would be disappointment if the link were ended." And Sir Wyn Roberts, a Welsh Office minister, has promised to fight to retain the word, despite opposition from Welsh nationalists. "The festival has always been associated with royalty. Most Welsh people want to retain that link. We will resist this call for change."

## Torn tartan

PROPOSALS for a new National Gallery of Scottish Art may spell the end of one of the nation's most important artistic landmarks. Art historians are now predicting that Edinburgh's National Portrait Gallery, a gift to Scottish people more than 100 years ago, will have to hand over its collection to the planned new centre and close.

This would embarrass the government, which has spent £500,000 a year on architectural restoration at the gallery since 1982. A further £1.5 million has been allocated over the next three years. Only last month, one of the four gothic spires removed in 1980 because of chemical pollution was reinstated.

Sir Hugh Leggart, a member of the Museums and Galleries' Commission, who has bought paintings for the gallery since 1946, says: "It would be a tragedy if it were lost to the art world. It is a national art treasure in its own right and just as important as the National Portrait Gallery in London. No one would dream of closing that."

● Treasury officials like to show they are tuned into matters beyond Whitehall. When it was suggested that a woman sports personality should sit on Tim Rice's new Foundation for Sport and the Arts an official proudly came up with a name: Jackie Stewart.





# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## HOLDING HOPES HOSTAGE

As Iran's interior minister and a senior UN official converge on Damascus, two interpretations can be made of the latest statements on Western hostages from Beirut and Tehran. The first is cruelly familiar. Hostages are taken as bargaining chips, a means to extract money, arms or political benefits. In this game of international blackmail, publicity helps to maintain the "bargaining value" of these wretched captives. Forgotten, they are a wasting asset.

Both governments and the press have slowly learnt how easily they can be exploited by hints and half-promises from the groups holding the hostages and the regimes which have influence with them. The "breakthrough" described by a senior official connected with Islamic Jihad, the group holding the Western hostages in Lebanon, may be no more than a breakthrough to Western headlines.

The second interpretation is that the men's captors are at last under genuine pressure from their political patrons and are looking for a dignified way out. That assumes a rationality and hierarchical tidiness in Middle Eastern politics which it would be rash to bank on. And there is no evidence that Hezbollah, the "party of God" created and financed by Iran to export the fundamentalist revolution, has modified its goals or diminished its ruthlessness. But the self-interest of the three governments most involved - Iran, Syria and Lebanon - lies in shedding their associations with the barbarous practice of hostage-taking.

Lebanon, where the hostages are still believed to be held, is beginning to resemble a country again. Precisely because its government has restored a measure of control only under Syrian tutelage, it has an obvious interest in establishing a civilised image abroad. As relative order is restored, even in the Bekaa valley, it becomes harder to explain why armed groups can continue to operate outside the law. Lebanon's government also needs to come to terms with Israel if it is to have any hope of regaining even a limited say in the southern "security zone".

Syria, which has always seen Lebanon as part of "Greater Syria", profited from the Gulf war to consolidate its hold on Lebanese politics. Its interest in perpetuating Western

tolerance for its hegemony in Lebanon would be served by a demonstration of some benign side-effects of Syrian intervention. The Syrian excuse has been the pressing need to restore "law and order" after years of wretchedly destructive civil war. But the more it claims to have succeeded, the harder it is pressed to deliver on repeated promises to work for the captives' freedom. Syrian officials used to claim that this task was seriously hampered, where the British hostages were concerned, by the absence of diplomatic relations. Now that these have been restored, the excuses have run out.

In Iran, President Hashemi Rafsanjani presides over the economic ruins of the Khomeini revolution and the long war with Iraq. Corruption is rife, subsidies abound and bureaucracy proliferates. Serious economic reform needs Western credits, but the hostages stand in the way. Iran has begun to feel hostage to the hostages, but still insists that it cannot "persuade" Islamic Jihad to give up its prisoners for nothing.

Israel, however, also holds a prominent hostage, the fundamentalist cleric, Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid. There are signs that the West would countenance a face-saving "spontaneous" release of all hostages, including the Sheikh. Israel, more bluntly, says it will release Sheikh Obeid and more than 300 Lebanese prisoners in exchange for seven Israeli soldiers missing in action, some of whom it believes to be held by Islamic Jihad. Western diplomats have made plain in Tehran that a government which promoted the taking of Western hostages in the first place cannot now pretend to be innocent. President Assad has been told equally firmly that nobody doubts that there is a way, if Damascus has the will. But some degree of diplomatic hypocrisy may now be the price of practical progress.

The involvement of the UN would neatly sidestep the question of whether bargains had in fact been struck. Islamic Jihad's promised "extremely important message" to the UN secretary-general may well be another publicity hoax. It may concern only one or two hostages. But the secret dispatch of UN and Iranian envoys to Syria could, just possibly, mark the beginning of the end.

## HOME TRUTHS FOR LAMONT

Britain's homeowners have been scapegoats too long. As the Halifax Building Society admitted on Tuesday, average house prices are once again falling, with little or no sign of a recovery. A few months ago, the grim state of the housing market provoked undisguised glee in the Treasury and most of the political establishment. In the hangover after Nigel Lawson's inflationary binge, it became an article of faith that too much money went into housing, exacerbating Britain's economic problems. Today, however, the sorry state of the property market and of the house-building industry should be a cause for concern and a serious re-examination of government policy.

The argument that Britain's inferior economic performance was due to putting too much money into bricks and mortar will not wash. Britain has consistently spent a smaller share of its national income on residential construction than Germany, France, Japan and most other advanced countries. The harm done to the economy by house-price inflation was mostly indirect. Deregulated, banks and building societies lent too much to consumers, setting loose an inflationary spending spree. It was this that caused Britain's establishment to turn against its once-lauded "property-owning democracy". Mortgage relief for higher rate tax payers was cut, and the Chancellor sought to talk down prices.

He has succeeded. The market is frozen. Homeowners' fears about the future value of their most important asset is impeding the demand side of economic recovery. The resulting reduction in mobility damages the supply side. And socially, housebuilding bumps along the bottom. New building fails to keep pace with the formation of new households; at the end of a complex chain, homelessness is the result.

The notion that poor financial returns on home ownership would encourage investment in affordable rental housing is also

being predictably disproved in the present slump. The rental investor is just as interested in rising asset values as the homeowner. If the prospect of appreciation is absent the rentier will naturally demand a higher rent than if he expects to make a capital profit on his investment.

Since entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism, it has become fashionable to argue that house prices will decline to continental levels and owner-occupation will fall, encouraging more labour mobility. Each of these propositions is based on half-truths. Average house prices in Britain are well below German levels. Owner-occupation is as high in Italy, America and Japan as it is in Britain. Germany has far fewer owner-occupiers, mainly because house prices are so high there, and there is no evidence that Germany enjoys greater labour mobility than Britain or America.

There is only one sound argument for believing that house prices in Britain will decline in the long term. This is the abolition by stealth of mortgage tax relief through non-indexation. Mortgage tax relief is the costliest and least defensible anomaly in the tax system and its demise should if anything be speeded up. But if abolition were accompanied by cuts in interest rates, as it should be, house prices might still rise.

Removal of mortgage tax relief should be part of a long-term policy of trying to avoid both excessive booms and slumps in housing and other asset prices. The objective should be to let house prices rise roughly in line with average earnings, judging sharp deviations from this trend as one of the signals for monetary tightening or easing. For homeowners and long-term investors in housing such a policy would be extremely reassuring. Signs of such long-term commitment to their interests by the government might even persuade homeowners to start spending again.

## A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

A group of 15 children goes astray in the Scottish Highlands. Thinly clad, they are forced to sleep in the open air, with only sleeping bags for warmth. The dangers of walking without proper equipment are gravely rehearsed. Today *The Times* finds that a dedicated walker could spend nearly £1,000 on kit. Would these children have been any better off? Would Wainwright have approved of such an outfit?

Walking is by far the most popular leisure activity in Britain according to the latest General Household Survey. Thirty-eight per cent of those asked had walked for fun in the previous four weeks, far eclipsing the 15 per cent who, in second place, had spun balls around a snooker, billiards or pool table. Those enjoying a walk had more than doubled from the year before, with the biggest rise among the young. Hence, perhaps, the proliferation of expensive gadgets and lund-coloured clothes in camping and walking shops.

Walkers used to want to be at one with the countryside. They wore earthy colours of brown and green. Their only equipment was a pair of sturdy and comfortable boots, a decent map, a compass, and something to keep off the wind and rain.

Now walking and camping shops sport fuchsia-pink and lilac rucksacks, bright orange capes, egg-yolk yellow anoraks,

All the better perhaps for the rescue helicopter to spot, but they form a kaleidoscope of unwelcome manmade blotches on the hillside to everyone else. Yet who could do without a Karrimor jacket and trousers made of Polarite artificial fleece at £94.90 the set? Or a Karrimor Baltoro Gore-Tex shell suit at just £295 for jacket and salopettes? Not to mention the £65 Casio Weather Station, the size of a wrist watch, which tells the time and the altitude and monitors changes in barometric pressure.

They all look so tantalisingly useful. Surely a pocket-sized silver survival blanket must come in handy? Or a multicoloured strap for attaching the ice-axe? Nothing like as important as a roll of bandage for turned ankles and a couple of sticking plasters, ready to slap onto the foot to stave off blisters the moment a twinge is felt.

Mercifully, serious British walkers are still out-dagglod in remote trekking areas by Germans, Swedes and Americans. The rucksack blooms in Nepal can be brighter than the rhododendrons. And walkers of the Inca trail in Peru should wear sunglasses to stave off the glare of other people's gear. But still the best accoutrement is not on sale in the shops: the ability to read a map and the modest modicum of hill sense that enables a down-to-earth walker to avoid spending unforeseen nights out, lost in the fog.

## Call for Marchioness public enquiry

*From Mr Michael Napier*  
Sir, The pre-emptive strike by the Director of Public Prosecutions (report, August 3) is the latest extraordinary twist in the two-year battle by the victims of the Marchioness disaster to obtain a full and open examination of the facts including if appropriate issues of corporate responsibility.

If the bereaved widower who has brought the prosecution based on new evidence (which I have not seen) obtained by his solicitor is to be denied even the right to put his case before an examining magistrate at a committal hearing this will further exacerbate the anger and dissatisfaction of many disaster victims at a legal system which they perceive as presenting them with more obstacles than answers.

The need now is simple and obvious - a public enquiry. This should have been announced at the outset but has been steadfastly refused by two secretaries of state for transport (Mr Cecil Parkinson and the present incumbent, Mr Malcolm Rifkind) despite repeated requests by MPs, victims and bereaved relatives, and by myself on behalf of the 69 survivors and 49 deceased who are represented by our solicitors group.

So great is the risk that the full facts of this disaster will never be examined that I have today written to Mr Rifkind, reminding him that on March 12, 1990, in the House of Commons in an oral answer, Patrick McLoughlin (minister for aviation and shipping), said: "I confirm that, if something serious comes forward it will still be open to [Mr Parkinson] to set up a public enquiry".

Any decision of the DPP to stop the private prosecution even before the committal (a step almost certainly unprecedented in a case of this nature) would be so serious that to avoid further government embarrassment and, above all, to

acknowledge what the survivors, the bereaved relatives and the public are entitled to expect in the aftermath of a disaster of these proportions Mr Rifkind should now have the courage to announce the long overdue public enquiry.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL NAPIER  
(Chairman, steering committee, Marchioness Disaster Solicitors Group),  
Pannone Napier (solicitors),  
St Peter's House,  
Hartfield,  
Sheffield,  
South Yorkshire,  
August 7.

*From Mr Edmund Lawson, QC*  
Sir, As one of the lawyers involved in the defence of Captain Henderson (at the first Bowtell trial) may I respond to the attack by Mr Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman (report, August 1). He castigated "fancy dancing by lawyers" as preventing justice being "aired at a public enquiry".

A public enquiry could not be conducted pending resolution of the criminal proceedings brought against Captain Henderson. After the first trial in April one of the matters publicly drawn by us to the judge's attention when consideration was given to the propriety of retrying the defendant was the concern of the bereaved that these criminal proceedings, which were not a "public enquiry" into the disaster, were delaying completion of the inquest and publication of the MAIB (Marine Accident Investigation Branch) report. It was decided, however, that the Crown was entitled to pursue a retrial.

Where's the fancy dancing?  
Yours faithfully,  
EDMUND LAWSON,  
4 Paper Buildings,  
Temple, EC4A,  
August 1.

## At odds with Scots law

*From Mr Michael P. D. Ellman*  
Sir, Your Law Report (August 2) that "a custody order made in Scotland ceased to have effect as soon as a custody order in respect of the same child was made in the jurisdiction of England and Wales..." is (although slightly oversimplified) typical of the confused state of the law between England and Scotland.

A French or German custody order which has been validly made is automatically enforceable in Britain under the European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions Concerning Custody of Children (incorporated into the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985), but a Scots order in the same circumstances is not enforceable in England, and a plethora of legislation on the subject from 1976 to 1986 has only confused the issue further.

It is really time that English and Scottish laws were at least brought into line with European conventions.  
Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL P. D. ELLMAN,  
Vizards (solicitors),  
42/43 Bedford Row, WC1.  
August 2.

## Medical lecturers' pay

*From Professor Keith Smith*  
Sir, Dr Colin Smith (August 5) complains about this year's salary offer to clinical academics who "carry a burden of responsibility for the quality of medicine in this country".

As one who recalls the pre-1968 situation, before clinical salaries were decoupled from those of other academics, I invite Dr Smith, together with Mr Kenneth Clarke, education secretary, to compute the relative erosion over the intervening 23 years of the salaries paid to all other university staff and to reflect on what that implies for the quality of nonmedical education.  
Yours faithfully,  
KEITH SMITH,  
11 Grimman Road,  
Braco,  
By Dumbane,  
Perthshire,  
August 5.

## At one remove

*From Mr J. Dove*  
Sir, I have just eaten the ultimate green absurdity - organic potato crisps, as marked on the packet.  
Yours etc,  
JEFF DOVE,  
8 Windrush Close,  
Allestree, Derbyshire,  
August 6.

## Key to Pearl Harbor

*From Mr James Rusbridger*  
Sir, Admiral Yamamoto's plan to attack the US Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor in December 1941 in my view owed nothing to Hector Bywater's book *The Great Pacific War*, published in the 1920s (report, August 5). Yamamoto was more likely influenced primarily by the Japanese navy's successful attack early on Sunday morning, May 27, 1905, against the Russians at Tsushima, which took them completely by surprise and allowed him to destroy their fleet.

His secondary influence would have been the attack by the Royal Navy at Taranto on November 11, 1940, when 22 elderly Swordfish biplanes sank or damaged most of the Italian fleet.

Between these two dates many people wrote about, and even experimented with, an attack on

## Baltic conundrum

*From the Director of Keston Research*  
Sir, President Bush, at the beginning of the Moscow summit (report, July 31), asserted the Baltic nations of his support in their drive for independence. In his Kiev speech at the end of the summit he asserted "freedom, democracy and economic liberty". At the same time he issued a warning to what you call (report, August 2) the "rebellious republics" to stay together.

Are the murders on the Lithuanian frontier (report, August 1) to be condoned as essential in the suppression of "suicidal nationalism" (President Bush's words) or condemned as an expression of "ethnic hatred" (from the same sentence of his speech)?

But is Soviet policy any clearer? Two verses above the one in Ecclesiastes to which President Gorbachev referred in his farewell speech (Diary, August 2) we read: "[There is] a time to kill and a time to heal". Which time is it now, according to the Soviet President?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL BOURDEAUX,  
Director, Keston Research,  
33a Canal Street, Oxford.

## Regimental system

*From Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Mackintosh*  
Sir, A Royal Navy pensioner asks (August 3) whether too much is made of the army's regimental system.

There are essential differences in the way in which the three services engage the enemy. In a ship, when the captain says "left hand down a bit" every member of the ship's crew follows (unless he elects to swim). The RAF differs in that only a few members of that service are directly involved in combat.

However, when the commander of an infantry company stands up, turns towards the enemy and says "OK chaps, follow me", there is inevitably a tense moment. Any special bond (e.g., the family togetherness of a county regiment or the esprit-de-corps of the special forces) is of inestimable value.

This is not to say that one lot is superior to the other. As a Gunner I have a deep and lasting admiration for both the infantry and the Royal Navy.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MACKINTOSH,  
1 Canon Hill's Gardens,  
Vicarage Lane,  
Shrivensham,  
Nr Swindon,  
Wiltshire,  
August 3.

Pearl Harbor. For example, in 1932 Admiral Schofield carried out the US navy's fleet problem XIV exercise, which involved an attack by a carrier task force against Pearl Harbor, and won. The same exercise was repeated in March 1938 and also succeeded.

Shinsaku Hirata's book *Warera Mushi Taikawaba* ("When We Fight"), published in 1934, gave a detailed account of how the Japanese navy could destroy the American fleet at Pearl Harbor.

Yamamoto therefore needed no advice from Hector Bywater (or anyone else) about the need to make a devastating first strike that would destroy the US navy's Pacific fleet. But, even after Taranto Yamamoto

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071 782 5046).

## Shopping around for a good school

*From the Secretary of the Headmasters' Conference*

Sir, Your report (July 31) of the education secretary's intention to require schools in both state and independent sectors to provide information about exam performance, leavers' destinations and truancy will be given a cautious welcome in Headmasters' Conference schools. We believe that decisions made by parents concerning their child's education are the most important they have to make and they should be well informed.

Parents should receive clear, helpful and analytical reports on performance and should be able to see the reports on inspections. All HMC schools publish detailed prospectuses which set out exam results and the wide range of other activities and services provided. This is one of at least four areas in which we would urge users of the "required" information to exercise caution:

1. There is much more to education than exam results and parents will want to look at the whole range of the education on offer - religion, pastoral care, discipline, career advice, sport, music, drama, art, technology, general educational activities, and so on.
2. Exam results will reflect peculiar local circumstances which will not be greatly changed by publishing the required information. In some areas there may be only one independent

school or one selective grammar school which is able to select an entry of highly academic pupils. In other areas there may be several schools competing for pupils so that those with the ability to do well in exams will be spread thinly among them. That the former schools will obtain "better" exam results does not tell us much about the relative quality of the education provided.

3. League tables are at best crude indicators. If they genuinely measured "value added" to pupils' education, the relationship between the pupil's ability and the results achieved, there might be more enthusiasm for them.

4. There is much more to getting to know a school than merely reading this required information or even the school's prospectus. There is no substitute for visits to the school and discussions with the teachers and the head.

Finally if the citizen's charter in education is to involve the restoration to the independent sector of the system of inspections which allowed schools to be "recognised as efficient" there will be even more support for the proposals.

Yours faithfully,  
VIVIAN ANTHONY,  
Secretary,  
Headmasters' Conference,  
130 Regent Road, Leicester,  
August 5.

## Democracy in Japan

*From Sir John Figgess*

Sir, Your correspondent in Tokyo is, I suppose, not responsible for the headline "Japan's winners take all, or more" and the reference to "sham democracy" superimposed on her article (August 5). No doubt there are plenty of faults to be found with Japanese society, as in that of any other modern large-scale industrial nation, but it is simply not true to say that "individuals living in one of the world's richest nations have learned to expect little for themselves from Japan's version of democracy".

Ordinary Japanese (virtually 120 million of them) have, over the last 20 years, shared in the increasing national affluence to a degree probably unknown on such a scale in history. (Any comparison with the

lot of ordinary Britons in the heyday of Empire is better left unexamined.)

In my judgment, based on more than half a century of close contact with Japan and the Japanese, the vast majority are not dissatisfied with the workings of democracy in their country and are proud of the nation's success, although they will find fault, as is their democratic privilege, and they deplore and are ashamed by the scandals attaching to politicians and (most recently) big business.

They may however reflect that similar scandals are not unknown in other democratic countries.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN FIGGESS,  
The Manor House,  
Burghfield Village,  
Reading, Berkshire,  
August 6.

## Dissatisfied readers

*From Mr Brian Lake*  
Sir, By Vincent Bromie's own admission (August 5) two thirds of British Library readers have serious doubts about the move to St Pancras. The Regular Readers' Group (report, July 26, later editions) is seeking to give them a voice.

Our central point is that as the completion of the St Pancras building is in question and as the first phase will be full of books by 1996, with less than half the reader seats originally intended (1,776 instead of 3,440) the round reading room and associated storage areas at Bloomsbury should be kept in use to make up the shortfall.

Concentrating the BL on two sites ten minutes apart is better than

shunting books 200 miles up to and down from Boston Spa. This simple plan fits in with the BL's conservation department, who agree that priority should go to post-1850 books at St Pancras, leaving pre-1850 books in Bloomsbury.

There is a desperate need for common sense to prevail in a situation where nothing will be ideal because of previous waste and inefficiency, and the government's failure, at present, to assure funding for the completion of St Pancras.

In the meantime, keep the BL facilities in Bloomsbury.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN LAKE  
(Honorary Secretary, British Library Regular Readers' Group),  
46 Great Russell Street, WC1,  
August 5.

## Dating Senso hoard

*From Dr Maria Mango*  
Sir, Your Archaeology report (July 16) on the "Senso treasure" belonging to the Marquess of Northampton Trust seems to question my dating of the copper cauldron which contained its 14 silver vessels. Because Sotheby's brochure was published just before carbon-14 tests were done, they were not mentioned there in discussing the date.

In its original report (February 1990) the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit suggested that if wood 100 to 200 years old produced the soot tested, dates for the cauldron and fire after AD 410 and up to AD 610 were possible - a view the unit now excludes.

Most objects are not buried the instant they are made (Georgian silver is still used today). Wear and ancient repairs to the treasure objects suggest that some time elapsed between their manufacture (AD 350 to 450, in my opinion) and concealment.

You report that "none of the silver vessels bear (sic) motifs dated later than AD 430-440". The motifs are timeless: Aphrodite and grapes recur from early antiquity to modern times.

Yours sincerely,  
MARIA MANGO  
(Research associate),  
University of Oxford,  
Institute of Archaeology,  
Beaumont Street, Oxford,  
August 6.

## Privatising parks

*From Professor Emeritus Otto H. Wolff*  
Sir, As a member of the public who for more than 50 years has enjoyed regular strolls in Regent's Park I wish to join Baroness Jeger (August 3) in asking Mr Heseltine why he wishes to contract out to the private sector the ground maintenance etc. of the royal parks.

During the second world war the government had the wisdom to maintain the beauty of the parks and thereby provided Londoners with the means to regain their composure following the nightly air raids, in beautiful surroundings.

I suggest that the public is very happy with the royal parks. Should government not aim to conserve that which is good and to recognise the devoted work of the staff? Beauty and loyalty are essential ingredients of the society most of us would like to live in.

Yours faithfully,  
O. H. WOLFF,  
53 Danbury Street, N1.

## Rank ignorance

*From Lady Black*  
Sir, Major-General Trythall's letter (August 2) strikes a chord. My husband and I receive incoherently addressed letters by post most. One was to "Commander I. N. Chief". It opened: "Dear Commander Chief". Yours faithfully,  
PAMELA BLACK,  
Admiralty House,  
Portsmouth, Hampshire.

*From Major D. A. Banks*  
Sir, My insurance company's computer address me as Major Banks Esq, seeing me, it seems, as both an officer and a gentleman.  
Yours faithfully,  
D. A. BANKS,  
Hillview Cottage, Woolhope, Hereford,  
August 5.

*From Commander M. B. F. Ranken, RN (ret)*  
Sir, Major-General Tony Trythall might find it would grate less if he remembered the vital hyphen, which does not allow the computer to separate Major from General.  
Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL RANKEN,  
44 Castelnau Mansions,  
Castelnau, Barnes, SW13.







Can you follow the mystery of God, or attain to the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens. What can you do?

**BIRTHS**

**ARVOLD** - On August 4th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, Georgina Elizabeth. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**BAILEY** - On August 2nd, 1991, to the wife of Karen (nee Payne), a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**BLACKBURN** - On August 6th, 1991, to the wife of John, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**BRIGGS** - On August 3rd, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**CAVETT-JONES** - On August 3rd, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**CROOKENDEN** - On August 3rd, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**DAY** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**FRASER** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**HEATH** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**KIRKBRIDE** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**LAIRD** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**MELTON** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**PIERCE** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**ROBERTS** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**WINSLOE** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**DEATHS**

**BEEDON** - On Friday July 11th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**CAMPBELL** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**CRITCHTON** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**DEWRE** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**ELPH** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**VERNON MILLER** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

**WILSON** - On August 5th, 1991, to the wife of Peter, a daughter, a second son, Peter. With grateful thanks to all at Bourn Hall.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BIRTHDAYS**

**SERVICES**

**DATELINE**

**FOR SALE**

**ALL TICKETS**

**MORNING SUITS**

**EVENING SUITS**

**FOOD & WINE**

**FLATSHARE**

**MEMORIAL SERVICES**

**IN MEMORIAM**

**ATTENTION LONDON**

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**RENTALS**

**IS YOUR RENTAL PROPERTY SITTING VACANT?**

**WE HAVE A LARGE SELECTION OF HOUSES FLATS AND STUDIOS IN ALL AREAS FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPATION.**

**FLIGHT BOOKERS**

**OVERSEAS TRAVEL**

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# To the shareholders of Great Nordic Holding Ltd.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held on Thursday 29 August 1991, at 3.00 pm, at the Company premises at Kongens Nytorv 26, 2nd floor, DK-1016 Copenhagen K, to transact the following business:







## BBC 1

- 6.00 Cee-fax 6.30 BBC Breakfast News**  
**9.05 Around the World with Willy Fog.** Animated adventures (r) 9.35  
**Heartbeat.** Art for enthusiastic beginners with Tony Hart and his team (r)
- 10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 Double Dare.** Peter Simon sets the contestants off over the mucky obstacles (r) 10.50 **The O-Zone.** Pop music magazine
- 11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Peaceable Kingdoms.** Jaguar, Animal drama starring Lindsay Wagner as the director of a Los Angeles zoo (r) 11.55 **Travel Show UK Mini Guides.** What Dordam Vale on the Essex/Suffolk borders has to offer the holidaymaker
- 12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 The Garden Party.** This morning's edition of the magazine has a special feature on the Brontë country around Haworth in Yorkshire; Debbie Greensted reporting from Aberdare on the tall ships race and Sally Jones discovering how animals can keep you healthy 12.55 **Regional News and weather**
- 1.00 One O'Clock News and weather**  
**1.30 Neighbours.** (Cee-fax). 1.50 **Holiday Outings.** Anne Gregg compares the two Indonesian island resorts of Bali and Lombok (r)
- 2.00 Cricket.** Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the first day's play in the fifth Test between England and West Indies at the Oval
- 4.00 Red and Blue Double Bill.** Cartoons 4.10 **The All New Popeye Show.** Two cartoons 4.30 **Dizzy Heights.** Episode four of the five-part children's comedy set in an unusual hotel (r)
- 5.00 Newsround 5.10 Record Breakers** with Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker. Today, an attempt on the one-wheel land speed record by the world's fastest unicyclist, and music from the world's biggest orchestra (r)
- 5.35 Neighbours.** (r). (Cee-fax). Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 **Inside Ulster**
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News** with Andrew Harvey and Jill Dando. **Weather**
- 6.30 Regional News Magazines.** Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 **Top of the Pops** presented by Nicky Campbell (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1)
- 7.30 EastEnders.** (Cee-fax)
- 8.00 Open All Hours.** Ronnie Barker is the mean northern shopkeeper and David Jason his sex-obsessed assistant in this classic comedy series. Tonight **Afterwork** upsets nurse Gladys Emmanuel by his rudeness to the customers. She and Granville hatch a plot to get their own back. With Lynda Barron (r). (Cee-fax)
- 8.30 The Lisa Maxwell Show.** Comedy sketches. (Cee-fax)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather

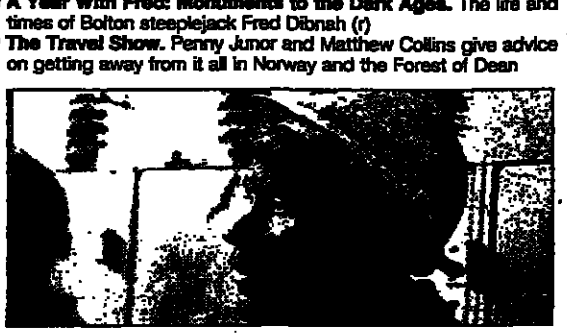


Flight from Idi Amin's Uganda: John Matabola as Kato (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Play on One: Escape from Kampala.**  
 ● **CHOICE:** *Escape from Kampala* boasts fewer sets than an old episode of *Chaplin* Man, with its tiny jungle of potted rubber plants. A bit of Prestwick stands in for Entebbe airport, and most of the rest is a large prison cell where the escape is planned. This is television in recession: a notable result of recent cutbacks is a return by television drama to, well, cheap drama — plays rather than films, shot on tape in controlled studio settings, with an emphasis on dialogue and acting, rather than costume and location. This drama about prison life under Idi Amin adapts — as you might expect — quite well to these restrictions. Wyllie Kato, (played by John Matabola), a director of civil aviation in Uganda, finds himself arrested and taken to Amin's Nakasero prison on spying charges. True or false, it hardly matters; accusation is what counts. Together with a group of army officers, failed assassins of Amin, he decides to escape. A routine drama, familiar from countless old POW movies, is given tension by good ensemble acting. (Cee-fax)
- 11.00 Capital News.** D.C. Treanor, American series about life on a Washington newspaper. Casey (Chelsea Field) uncovers evidence about the CIA secretly tapping Soviet telephone lines — but CIA agents pressure editor-in-chief Jo Jo (Lloyd Bridges) into killing the explosive story. (Cee-fax) Northern Ireland: Greenfingers 11.25-12.00am **Capital News**
- 11.45 Weather.** Wales: News headlines and weather

## BBC 2

- 6.45 Open University: Patterns of Diversity.** Ends at 7.10  
**8.00 News & 8.15 Archaeology of the Bible Lands (r)**  
**8.45 Whittier's Houses.** Hugh Casson visits north Oxfordshire, where the architect, the author of *Lark Rise to Candleford*, grew up in the 1880s (r) 9.00 **Cricket.** West Indies v England at the Oval
- 9.30 Three in the Wild.** First of two films telling the story of Tony, a Dartmouth pony (r) 10.00 **The Musical Mermaid.** David Farnsworth travels to New Guinea and Tahiti in search of indigenous music and dance (r)
- 10.50 Cricket.** Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the opening session of the fifth Test between England and West Indies at the Oval
- 1.05 Della Smith's One is Fun.** Della prepares Chinese delights for the line other (r) 1.20 **Greenwich.** Children's animation (r)
- 1.35 Cricket: England v West Indies.** Further coverage from the Oval
- 2.00 News and weather** followed by **Claes of '81: Johnny Gat Has Gun.** Contemporary dance by school pupils (r)
- 2.20 Royal Eisteddfod of Wales 1991.** Live coverage of the Charing Ceremony 3.50 **News and weather**
- 4.00 Cricket.** Coverage of the closing session of the first day's play in the fifth Test between England and West Indies at the Oval
- 6.30 Titled World.** Why Ecuador is being forced to exploit its natural resources at the cost of the environment
- 7.00 A-Z of LIFT.** Theatre critic Michael Goldfarb presents a portrait of last month's tenth anniversary edition of the London International Festival of Theatre
- 7.30 Business Matters: Heading Over.** David Lomax reports on a revolutionary experiment in labour relations
- 8.00 On the Line**
- 9.00 CHOICE: Is chess a sport?** More a matter of life and death argue practitioners: all those naked spots competing with each other in a deadly power play. Nevertheless, physical stamina is a consideration, given that games have been ended by exhaustion. As for English chess, it suffers, despite a ranking second to the Russians, from the usual misunderstanding and image problem. English chess is not, as often would be said, a game that can be done by this ostensibly harmless activity. 'You've got to kill people, this is very important,' says the deceptively mild looking Short, presumably psyching himself up to Sunday's quarter-final eliminator against Boris Gelfand
- 9.30 A Year With Fred Greenwood** to the Dark Ages. The life and times of Bolton stepfather Fred Dinah (r)
- 9.50 The Travel Show.** Penny Junor and Matthew Collins give advice on getting away from it all in Norway and the Forest of Dean

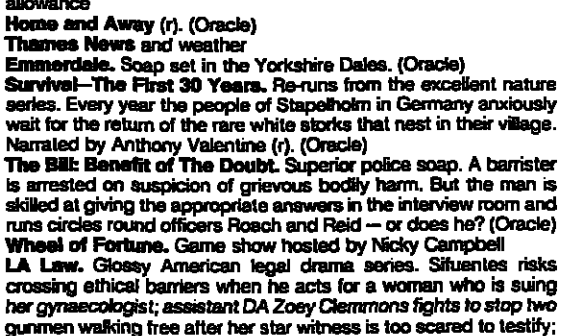


Requiem for the NUM: a Mardy Colliery worker (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Under the Sun: Last PB in the Rhondda — the Final Cut.**  
 ● **CHOICE:** *Under the Sun* marks this documentary on the closure of the once famous Mardy pit last December, a closure that ended more than 200 years of coal mining in the Rhondda Valley. Mardy, once renowned for its political militancy, closed on a note of domestic rather than union unhappiness; as much as anything, this film is a requiem for the NUM. Miners — nothing if not entrenched in the attitude towards the role of their wives — find themselves contemplating, after a lifetime underground and in the face of unemployment, the terrors of voicing, and such unaccustomed concepts as house-husbandry. Wives talk of how the 1984-85 miners' strike affected them and how, in spite of their support, they were ushered back into the home by their husbands afterwards. This vanishing world, with its particularly rooted idea of community, was not at all part of Mrs Thatcher's neat, suburban vision of a shopkeeper's Britain, and one reason, perhaps, for its dismantling. (Cee-fax)
- 10.20 Voices from the Doff's House: Victoria the Suffragette.** Victoria Liddard recalls what life was like when women were fighting for the vote (r)
- 10.30 Newsnight**
- 11.15 Cricket: England v West Indies.** Highlights from the first day of the fifth Test at the Oval
- 12.00 Weekend Outlook.** A preview of Open University programmes
- 12.05am Open University: Customer Service.** Ends at 12.35

## ITV

- 6.00 TV-am**  
**9.25 Inspector Gadget (r) 9.55 Thames News and weather**  
**9.55 The Haunted School.** Drama serial starring Carol Drinkwater as an English governess living in the Australia outback (r) 10.25 **Just for the Record.** With a westerly stunt team, a high diving mule and a man who can put a turning chain in his mouth (r) 10.50 **News headlines and weather**
- 10.55 Adventures on Kyrthor.** Episode six of the seven-part children's drama serial 11.25 **Oz Tales.** Animation 11.55 **Thames News and weather** 12.00 **Disney Cartoon** featuring Mickey Mouse 12.10 **The Riddlers.** Children's puppet series (r)
- 12.30 News** with Nicholas Owen. **Weather** 1.10 **Thames News and weather**
- 1.20 Blooded Away (Oracle)** 1.50 **A Country Practice.** Drama serial set in and around a rural Australian medical centre

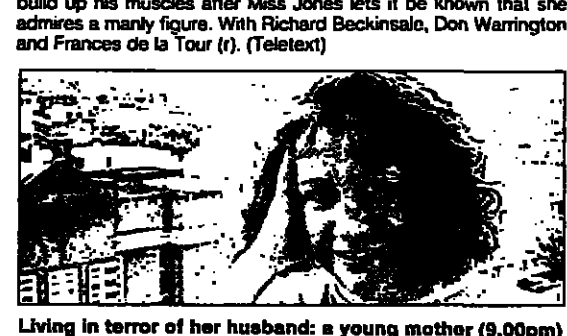


Taking the plunge: Paul Barnes and Anthony Turner (2.20pm)

- 2.20 Anything Goes.** The leisure magazine takes a look at health and fitness breaks. Paul Barnes visits Gloucester and Anthony Turner stays at a women-only hotel 2.50 **All Cried Up.** David Hamilton's guessing game for married couples
- 3.15 News and weather** 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **The Young Doctors**
- 3.55 Funniest Days** 4.15 **Disney's Duck Tales** 4.40 **Fun House.** Slapstick game show (r)
- 5.10 Who's the Boss?** American domestic sitcom starring Tony Danza 5.40 **News** with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) **Weather**
- 5.55 Thames Help.** Jackie Sprackley with advice on claiming a mobility scooter (r)
- 6.00 Home and Away (r)** (Oracle)
- 6.30 Thames News and weather**
- 7.00 Emmerdale.** Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)
- 7.30 Survival—The First 30 Years.** Re-run from the excellent nature series. Every year the people of Stapholm in Germany anxiously wait for the return of the rare white storks that nest in their village. Narrated by Anthony Valentine (r) (Oracle)
- 8.00 The Bill: Benefit of the Doubt.** Superior police soap. A barrister is arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm. But the man is skilled at giving the appropriate answers in the interview room and runs circles round officers Roach and Reid — or does he? (Oracle)
- 8.30 Wheel of Fortune.** Game show hosted by Nicky Campbell
- 9.00 LA Law.** Gloomy American legal drama series. Stuntmen risks crossing ethical barriers when he acts for a woman who is suing her gynaecologist; assistant DA Zoey Clemmons fights to stop two gunmen walking free after her star witness is too scared to testify; and there is a tragedy in store for Rosalind Shays (Oracle)
- 10.00 News** with Julia Somerville and Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle)
- 10.40 Survival: The First 30 Years.** Television version of the celebrated play, with Joss Ackland and Julian Gough recreating their much-praised stage performances. In 1924 a Chicago courtroom was stunned by the confessions of two teenagers (both highly intelligent and from millionaire families) who admitted murdering a 14-year-old boy as an experiment in emotion and as an intellectual exercise to commit the perfect crime. The trial, which fascinated and outsped America, made US legal history by allowing mitigating evidence from psychiatrists
- 12.40am The Twilight Zone.** A writer visits his childhood home and finds himself transported back to his youth
- 1.10 In the Heat of the Night.** American deep south drama series starring Carroll O'Connor and Howard Rollins. An FBI agent comes to Sparta to catch a blackmailer
- 2.00 The Glengarry Glen Ross (1975).** Predictable action film starring Al Pacino as a hustler who is a Robin Hood-type gipsy who avenges the oppression suffered by his people by robbing banks and post offices and redistributing the money. With Annie Girardot. Directed by Joe Giovanni
- 4.00 Funny Farm.** Stand-up comedy from Scotland
- 4.30 America's Top Ten** presented by Casey Kasem and Tommy Rust (r)
- 5.00 Nightvision.** Late night chat show (r)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News** with Phil Ratten. Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel Four Daily**  
**9.25 Equinox: The Nuts and Bolts of Ben Bowley.** The story of Ben Bowley, who suffers from dyslexia but built a racing car that amazed experts at Lotus. His former teachers believe many highly gifted dyslexic children are held back by a poorly-funded education system (r) 10.25 **Famous for 4 Minutes (r)**
- 10.30 Flight Over Spain.** Asturias from the air (r). (Teletext)
- 11.00 Doodler! Impressions of Len Lye.** Profile of artist and animator Len Lye (r)
- 12.00 Profiles of Nature.** This fascinating documentary by leading North American wildlife conservation film-makers Walter and Myrna Seriel is a three-year study of the beautiful common loon, a diving bird
- 12.30 Business Daily 1.00 Sesame Street.** With Cab Calloway (r)
- 2.00 On the March: MacArthur's Japan.** Fred Holliday examines the role of General MacArthur in building a new Japan after the second world war (r)
- 2.30 Film: Three Men in a Boat (1956).** Film version of Jerome K. Jerome's classic comic novel with Laurence Harvey, David Tomlinson and Jimmy Edwards as the Edwardian trio getting wet on the Thames. With Jill Ireland, directed by Ken Annakin
- 4.10 Spare Time.** Critically-acclaimed short documentary from 1939 looking at the ways workers from three different industries spend their pre-work leisure time, made by British director Humphrey Jennings
- 4.30 Countdown.** Words and numbers quiz show
- 5.00 Laurel and Hardy.** Adventures of the cartoon Stan and Ollie
- 5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Model Search.** Neomi Campbell, the South London schoolgirl-turned-supermodel, joins Oprah in her second nationwide search for the star model of the future
- 6.00 The Marshall Chronicles: Brighton's Set-Off.** American comedy series about the life and times of a Manhattan teenager. Starring Joshua Rifkin
- 6.30 Cycling: Kellogg's Tour of Britain.** This third stage — from Luton to Sudon — is 104 miles long and including four hard climbs and two sprints
- 7.00 Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext). **Weather** 7.50 **Comment**
- 8.00 Flowering Passion: The Purple Rose of Ramsbottom.** Anna Favour meets Tony Bragagnolo, who has struggled to create the perfect garden at Ramsbottom, and Jimmy Hancock, head gardener of Powis castle, who shows how to make the most of hybrid musk roses. (Teletext)
- 8.30 Rising Damp.** Classic Seventies sitcom with Leonard Rossiter as the laudible landlord of a seedy boarding house. Tonight he vows to build up his moustache after Miss Jones lets it be known that she admires a manly figure. With Richard Beckinsale, Don Warrington and Frances de la Tour (r). (Teletext)



Living in terror of her husband: a young mother (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Violent Lives: The Victims.**  
 ● **CHOICE:** In spite of the volume of stuff falling out of our television screens daily, little of it actually looks like the Britain out there that most of us live in and negotiate on a daily basis. The camera work in this episode of *Violent Lives* is memorable for capturing that ordinariness — the housing estates, the corner shops, that slightly eerie quality of empty suburbs are all noted for a reason that becomes clear. Violence, far from being arbitrary as the newspapers would have us believe, is most likely to be committed by someone known to the victim and in familiar surroundings; that, anyway, is the police's story. Victims are the forgotten people in cases of violence, and research into its after-effects remains sporadic, partly because of the amount of domestic violence that stays hidden. Of those interviewed here, more than one talks of how difficult it is afterwards to regain the confidence to handle the mundane things the rest of us manage automatically. (Teletext)
- 10.00 Film: Playing Away (1986).** In this comedy about a clash of culture and colour on and off the cricket field, a small East Anglian village invites a team from Bridton to play a charity game — with unforeseen results for all concerned. Starring Norman Beaton, Robert Urquhart and Helen Lindsay, directed by Horace Ove. (Teletext)
- 11.55 The Master of Ullua.** Witchcraft, religion, politics and passion are woven together in this stunning four-part drama series set in Galicia in 1880. In Spanish with English subtitles. Ends at 1.20am

## ANGLIA

- As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 **Blockbusters** 5.50-7.00 **Anglia News** 10.45 **Anything** 11.15-11.55 **Pleasant** 12.00 **Donatus** 1.35 **Film: First Monday** in October 3.20 **News** 4.30 **Coach** 5.00-5.30 **My Secret Identity**
- BORDER**  
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 **Home and Away** 5.50-7.00 **Blockbusters** 7.10-8.00 **Blockbusters** 8.10-9.00 **Blockbusters** 9.10-10.00 **Blockbusters** 10.10-11.00 **Blockbusters** 11.10-12.00 **Blockbusters** 12.10-1.00 **Blockbusters** 1.10-2.00 **Blockbusters** 2.10-3.00 **Blockbusters** 3.10-4.00 **Blockbusters** 4.10-5.00 **Blockbusters** 5.10-6.00 **Blockbusters** 6.10-7.00 **Blockbusters** 7.10-8.00 **Blockbusters** 8.10-9.00 **Blockbusters** 9.10-10.00 **Blockbusters** 10.10-11.00 **Blockbusters** 11.10-12.00 **Blockbusters** 12.10-1.00 **Blockbusters** 1.10-2.00 **Blockbusters** 2.10-3.00 **Blockbusters** 3.10-4.00 **Blockbusters** 4.10-5.00 **Blockbusters** 5.10-6.00 **Blockbusters** 6.10-7.00 **Blockbusters** 7.10-8.00 **Blockbusters** 8.10-9.00 **Blockbusters** 9.10-10.00 **Blockbusters** 10.10-11.00 **Blockbusters** 11.10-12.00 **Blockbusters** 12.10-1.00 **Blockbusters** 1.10-2.00 **Blockbusters** 2.10-3.00 **Blockbusters** 3.10-4.00 **Blockbusters** 4.10-5.00 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## Cricket fans' uphill struggle

Continued from page 1  
close to its counterpart, which is still in working order, work can be carried out only between the hours of 1am and 5.30am, when both escalators are shut down, leaving engineers just four-and-a-half hours to work each day. It would be quicker if both escalators were closed during the day, but that would involve passengers of all ages having to climb the 100 steps on the emergency spiral stairs.

Fred Hammond, senior engineer responsible for the 57 escalators and 21 lifts on the Northern and Jubilee lines, said work should have started soon after the faulty escalator was closed five months ago.

However, London Underground did not have the necessary £250,000 until this week, when directors announced a £4 million increase in the refurbishment budget.

The extra cash will allow Mr Hammond almost to double the number of escalator refurbishments at the southern end of the Northern Line this financial year, including Clapham Common, South Wimbledon, Tooting Broadway, Clapham South, Tooting Bec, Oval, and Colliers Wood, each of which should last for 15 years once the work is done.

Work on The Oval operation should begin in November, and when it is finished the second escalator will probably have to be closed, since it is also nearing the end of its life.

At the beginning of 1989, during the height of the public outcry over out-of-order escalators, London Underground, which has 273 escalators, had an average of 80 of them out of service every day. That figure has now fallen to an average of 40 a day, close to the target figure of 35 a day.

Mr Hammond says nonetheless that he feels he is banging his head against the wall. Because of three decades of neglect by successive governments, the maintenance backlog is now so enormous that "throwing a little extra money at it will make little difference".

The Paris Métro receives a 75 per cent government subsidy, but London Underground is required to run on a commercial basis.

Passengers irritated by out of order escalators are advised to forego the temptation to vent their anger on London Underground staff, and should write instead to Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary.

Test preview, page 34



Moment of peace: a priest bearing confession yesterday during an open-air service in the ruins of the Augustinian Priory at Walsingham, Norfolk. The service was part of the fifth annual New Dawn in the Church conference of the Roman Catholic charismatic movement

## Three hurt in triple blast at oil platform

By KERRY GILL

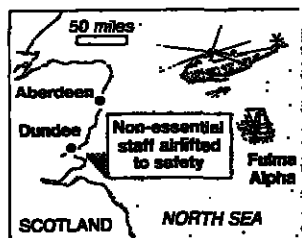
INVESTIGATIONS will start today into the cause of a series of gas explosions in which three North Sea oil workers were injured yesterday on the Fulmar Alpha platform, 194 miles east of Dundee.

The workers, including a woman, suffered superficial burns and shock in the explosions on the platform, which is operated jointly by Shell and Exxon. Fifty-one injured and non-essential personnel were flown to safety by nine helicopters.

Shell said that the fabric of the installation was undamaged. The injured worked for CCG Catering, of Aberdeen, and the woman was believed to be the first female casualty since oil and gas production began in the North Sea in the mid-1960s.

She was named last night as Collette McGeehan, of Glasgow, who is stable with second degree burns to her arms, face and knees. Others injured were Mark Gibson, of Elgin, Morayshire, and David Billington, of Northwich, Cheshire. Mr Gibson was said to be stable and Mr Billington comfortable with burns.

A gas alarm was set off at



50 miles  
Aberdeen  
Dundee  
Non-essential staff airlifted to safety  
Fulmar Alpha  
SCOTLAND NORTH SEA

9.37am, and all personnel were summoned to muster stations. Production was automatically shut down. The explosions came as the crew were beginning to return to duty, but there was no fire and the crew were recalled to muster stations. The injured were flown for treatment at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

Two platforms near by, Ank and Clyde, connected to the same oil and gas pipelines, were also closed.

The explosions were the first major incidents since the Ocean Odyssey gas rig blew up, killing a radio operator in September 1988, two months after the Piper Alpha disaster in which 167 men died.

Ronnie McDonald, chairman of the unofficial Offshore Liaison Committee, said: "Today's events show we are still in a dangerous and highly

volatile industry." Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party and a member of the House of Commons select committee on energy, said: "This serious incident brings into sharp relief the urgency of the recommendations on offshore safety made by the select committee."

Colin Moynihan, the energy minister, was on a tour of oil installations yesterday organised by the Amerasia Hess company, although he was not in the area of Fulmar Alpha.

Brian Ward, Shell's production manager, said there were three explosions in the accommodation module, causing serious damage to bedrooms. There was no obvious link between the explosions and the earlier gas leak. "There is an investigation going on. We literally have no idea how these explosions came about."

Oil prices jumped by around 20 cents in London on news of the explosions. Around 180,000 barrels a day, more than 10 per cent of Britain's output, was halted by the closures, but prices were little changed at the close, with London North Sea Brent crude oil futures for September steady at \$19.43 a barrel.

## Turkish jets pound Iraqi Kurdish bases

Istanbul — Turkey said yesterday that its fighter planes had flown 92 sorties into northern Iraq in continuing strikes against Turkish Kurdish rebels. A statement by the Turkish general staff said the operation, joined by troops flown into Iraq by helicopter, had caused heavy damage to rebel bases.

"New targets discovered during the operation have also been bombed. It should be never forgotten that the Turkish army is ready to punish severely and decisively those responsible for all kinds of actions and treachery against our country."

The strikes, launched against guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party on Monday,

were officially confirmed yesterday by Mesut Yilmaz, the prime minister. The statement, confirming newspaper reports that a big operation was in progress, said that intensive air raids had been continuing since Monday. "In co-ordination with the operation, rebel hideouts have been raided and destroyed by commando teams backed by armed helicopters."

It added that early yesterday commandos and helicopter gunships, backed by fighter planes, started striking the "remains of the rebels" up to six miles inside Iraq, where about 600 to 700 rebels were based. (Reuters)

Troops hunt rebels, page 10

## TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

When they allowed women to go to sea last year, the Navy had a fairly shrewd idea of the headlines they would attract, and they were not disappointed. "HMS Loveboat" was one among many, and a court-martial hardly helped. "We really would be very naive," the new director of the Women's Royal Naval Service says, "if we didn't expect people to form relationships". But as she tells Kate Muir, lines have to be drawn somewhere...

Plus: how cars with power to burn and drivers who over-estimate their abilities are wreaking havoc on the roads

## Prizes for all after a day of sea and sake

I WAS recently invited by a Japanese friend to go ocean fishing. Images of big fish fostered by Hemingway, and deep seas far from the ferid heat of Tokyo, seemed enough to balance the cost of a fan start.

I arrived on the appointed Saturday to find about three dozen fishermen and women, more usually recognisable in their grey suits and aprons, today kitted out in crisp new "fishing jerseys" and clutching high-tech rods, some still in their store wrappings.

Many had been up for hours, merrily gathering a selection of bugs for bait, though where in deepest concretion Tokyo they had found them I cannot imagine. Surely Mrs Watanabe's pot plant could not have yielded all that?

This, I soon realised, was to be a day of leisure at its most organised. In the matter of scheduling, however, our leader, Mori-san, was in a league of his own. Checking his watch, he gave the signal for our first group photograph. The Japanese compulsion to be organised rendered his task easy: orderly lines and grins were formed for the lens, and we were ushered on board.

"On board" was like the inside of a capsule-sized cocktail bar in the Ginza. The boat was a double-decker affair decorated with paper screens, tatami mats, bobbing paper lanterns and an enormous deck of the latest karaoke equipment.

We pulled away from the jetty at precisely 7.45am, and Mori-san grinned fit to bust. Sake was opened, and an accountant gave an impassioned high-voltage rendition of Yesterday. I wondered how long before we would board our ocean-going vessel.

The floating pub wound its way through a network of canals and out into Tokyo Bay. We ploughed gamely on, past the marine parks and the Lego-style apartment blocks. No-one had started to swap fishing anecdotes.

Our captain, not exactly the salty, old sun-wisened, sea-dog type, wore tailored Kenzo shorts, their creases a marvel to behold, and a fine pair of tooled leather



brogues over his pink socks. Everyone chuckled happily... but still no-one mentioned fish.

As we rounded the corner of a curious man-made floating beach, all hopes of seeing the Pacific were dashed. With a snappy manoeuvre, we were inched into a reserved slot in what can only be described as a fishing-boat park. All around were rows upon rows of identical boats, all neatly roped off in Tokyo Bay. So close was the metropolis that I could almost wave at the waters in the press club bar.

On the signal from Mori-san, rods were assembled, jinkins buttoned and winking hats donned all round. To the walls of Whitney Houston (automatic karaoke), lines sprouted from the boat. As Mori-san checked happily with his watch, the first thumb-sized fish were reeled in, greeted with applause and the whirr of camera shutters. The din almost drowned Ms Houston.

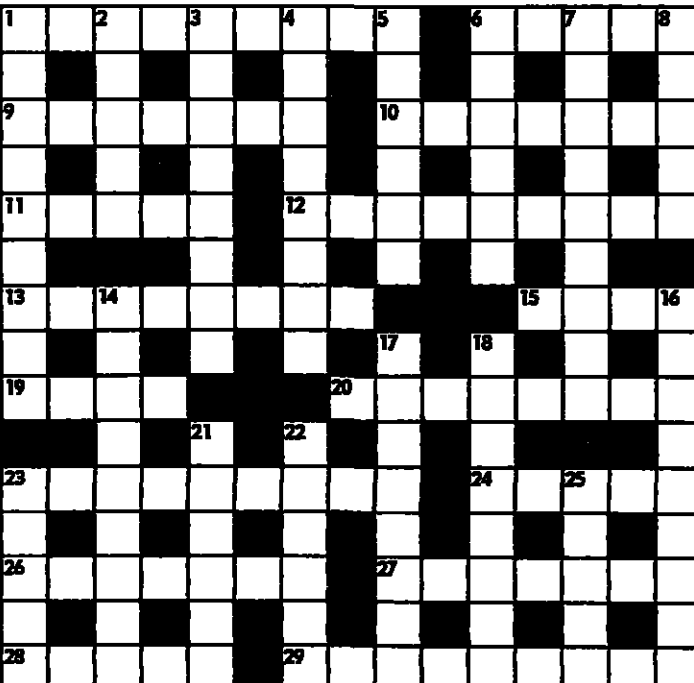
One man, who hooked 15 fish in ten minutes, took to saying *gomen nasai* (sorry) with a little bow before each new victim. The hot sun and the sake got the better of another, who tangled his line with a neighbouring fisherman's, tugged strenuously, and then toppled into the water. He must have terrified the frogmen I imagined were employed by the boat company to lurk and attach fish to our lines.

After three hours, our parking permit ran out. Everyone upped rods, and our captain, who had been nursing his creases in some cool and shady spot, eased us gingerly out of the park.

On the way back there was the inevitable prize-giving ceremony. Despite being the most inept on board, with a miserable tally of one fish, I too was given a prize: "For being a foreigner," they said kindly. The beatific Mori-san surveyed the scene — another leisure assignment completed successfully.

JOANNA PITMAN

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,679



- ACROSS**
- Further information is rejected with glee (9).
  - Leaves motorway coming out of old European kingdom (5).
  - It could be abominable, yet it joined up (7).
  - Highly-regarded priest must remain anonymous... (7).
  - ...but French department has name for poet (5).
  - Not giving a smack — it may be offensive (9).
  - I have snuffed around before taking the plunge (8).
  - Obtain food, say, to give away (4).
  - Ready to attempt finally what no one can play (4).
  - Actor captivates pit to show his power (8).
  - In papal vestment, notice a security device (9).
  - Some coconut for a girl clutching a penny (5).
- DOWN**
- Examine boy about offence (7).
  - Cause confusion by a gender change (7).
  - Inarticulate song from Canton (5).
  - Don't commit oneself to be a cat's-paw? (9).
  - Kept going steady (9).
  - Mysterious man died on entrance to lift (5).
  - Not what made Noel tipsy? (8).
  - A case to concede, covering the point when raised (8).
  - Beat husband into pulp (6).
  - Groups of girls are drunk, it's said (6).
  - King crab found in bays with weed (9).
  - Range of touring sedan (5).
  - Produced in the W. Indies by applying pitch to oil drums? (5,4).
  - Hairstyle once associated with type of secretary (9).
  - Unfinished furniture no use for old emperor (8).
  - Is about to be united without fail (8).
  - Old German museum needs money (6).
  - Encouragement for boy to speak (6).
  - Aggressive, though raised up meek (5).
  - Criticise too heartless a show (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,678

PARAPETS SCATHE  
I E A T D H O N  
QUARTERFINALIST  
UR E A R L H  
EGHEAD A CLEAR  
TUN A E L E O  
PASTIMES DIVAN  
P R O O I E  
HODGE NONESUCH  
I P O T T O  
LASTING PERSONA  
I T G A N I R V  
PROFORMAIVE  
P O N Y A E A A  
INDEED CLARINET

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?  
By Philip Howard

- APOSTOLIA**  
a. External reflections  
b. An aversion to food  
c. Colonies
- TAMIN**  
a. The fruit of the tamarisk  
b. A Buddhist spirit  
c. Highly glazed this worsted
- CYSEIS**  
a. Pregnancy  
b. A method of blue dyeing  
c. A rhetorical pause
- CRANKEUCH**  
a. A basket for crabs  
b. A serrated pickstaff  
c. Elser trout

Answers on page 18

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE  
a. London (within M & S Circs) 731  
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732  
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733  
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M25 734  
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735  
M25 London Orbital only 736

National  
National motorways 737  
West Country 738  
Wales 739  
Midlands 740  
East Angles 741  
North-west England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at other times.

South-east England and East Anglia will have a mostly dry day with sunny periods after early showers clear. The rest of England and Wales and central, eastern and southern Scotland will be dry with sunny periods during the day. Northern Ireland and north-west and northern Scotland will have sunny periods and some showers, and rain this evening. Outlook: unsettled in the north; mostly dry in the south.

MIDDAY: 1-thunder; 4-dizzle; 10-dry; 16-sun; 21-sun; 26-sun; 31-sun; 36-sun; 41-sun; 46-sun; 51-sun; 56-sun; 61-sun; 66-sun; 71-sun; 76-sun; 81-sun; 86-sun; 91-sun; 96-sun; 101-sun; 106-sun; 111-sun; 116-sun; 121-sun; 126-sun; 131-sun; 136-sun; 141-sun; 146-sun; 151-sun; 156-sun; 161-sun; 166-sun; 171-sun; 176-sun; 181-sun; 186-sun; 191-sun; 196-sun; 201-sun; 206-sun; 211-sun; 216-sun; 221-sun; 226-sun; 231-sun; 236-sun; 241-sun; 246-sun; 251-sun; 256-sun; 261-sun; 266-sun; 271-sun; 276-sun; 281-sun; 286-sun; 291-sun; 296-sun; 301-sun; 306-sun; 311-sun; 316-sun; 321-sun; 326-sun; 331-sun; 336-sun; 341-sun; 346-sun; 351-sun; 356-sun; 361-sun; 366-sun; 371-sun; 376-sun; 381-sun; 386-sun; 391-sun; 396-sun; 401-sun; 406-sun; 411-sun; 416-sun; 421-sun; 426-sun; 431-sun; 436-sun; 441-sun; 446-sun; 451-sun; 456-sun; 461-sun; 466-sun; 471-sun; 476-sun; 481-sun; 486-sun; 491-sun; 496-sun; 501-sun; 506-sun; 511-sun; 516-sun; 521-sun; 526-sun; 531-sun; 536-sun; 541-sun; 546-sun; 551-sun; 556-sun; 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## Recession increases insurance claims

THE recession is increasing insurance claims, said Commercial Union as it reported pre-tax losses of £26.3 million for the first half of this year, against profits of £16 million last time.

In Britain, where the loss on non-life business was £37 million, suspicious losses are rising. More than a quarter of big commercial fire claims are thought to have been caused by arson. Theft claims are up two fifths and the cost three fifths, with theft of computer terminals becoming big business. The group lost the equivalent of £6 million in premiums on its reduced mortgage guarantee business.

Tony Brand, the chief executive, said premium rates were inadequate and the group was trying to raise them in all areas. "Our main markets are now at the bottom of the cycle. There is growing evidence that rate increases are being obtained, but it is certain to be some time before that flows through to results." CU expects further rises this year of more than 10 per cent in household contents rates and less than 10 per cent on motor policies, but competition from continental insurers has increased. The interim dividend has been raised to 9.25p (9p). Life profits rose to £53.7 million and higher share prices helped boost shareholders' funds by £135 million.

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## Goodman goes

Larry Goodman has resigned from the board of Food Industries after fellow directors voted to recommend a bid by Greenore, the former state-controlled Irish Sugar.

## Simon drops

Pre-tax profits at Simon Engineering fell from £16.5 million to £10.4 million in the first half of this year. Earnings per share slipped from 14.3p to 7.5p but the interim dividend is held at 5p.

Temps, page 23

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.7110 (-0.0010)  
German mark 2.9292 (-0.0018)  
Exchange index 91.0 (-0.1)

FT 30 Share 2014.9 (+25.9)  
FT-SE 100 2597.4 (+24.1)  
New York Dow Jones 3025.94 (-1.34)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23691.02 (+226.06)

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISER: Morgan Crucible 251 1/2p (+8p)  
Midland 238 1/2p (+8p)  
Standard Chartered 300p (+8p)  
GKN 300p (+11p)  
Hewlett-Packard 301 1/2p (+8p)  
Reuters 82 1/2p (+20p)  
Commercial Union 53 1/2p (+10p)  
Sun Alliance 35 1/2p (+10p)  
London & Lancashire 35 1/2p (+8p)  
News Corp 35 1/2p (+15p)  
Pension 75 1/2p (+11p)  
Electronic Data 107 1/2p (+12p)  
AP 140p (+10p)  
THORN EMI 77 1/2p (+10p)  
LSC Service 150 1/2p (+8p)  
WPL 51 1/2p (+8p)  
Tishco 51 1/2p (+8p)  
Boots 41 1/2p (+8p)  
FALLS: Davies & Newman 135p (-10p)  
Rascal Telecom 32 1/2p (-8p)  
Closing Prices...Page 27

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 11%  
3-month Interbank 10 1/2%-10%  
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2%-10 1/2%  
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%  
Federal Funds 5 1/2%  
3-month Treasury Bills 5.38-5.37%  
30-year bonds 9 1/2%-9 1/2%

## CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£ \$1.7110  
£ DM2.9292  
£ Sfr2.9292  
£ FF6.5784  
£ Yen235.50  
£ Index91.0  
SCD 10 538.38  
SCD 10 538.38  
SCD 10 538.38

## GOLD

London: New York  
AM \$355.85 pm \$355.80  
Close \$357.00-357.50 (\$208.90-209.40)  
New York: Comex \$356.55-357.05

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$19.45 bbl (\$19.40)  
Denotes latest trading price

## RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.1 June (1987=100)

## Share watchdog launches enquiry

# US investors to sue Japan's big four brokers

From Philip Robinson in New York

THREE leading American institutional investors are preparing to sue Japan's four largest brokerage houses, which paid out an estimated \$1 billion in compensation to favoured clients for losses incurred when the Tokyo market plunged last year.

The "big four", Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi, have admitted selling securities to favoured clients at artificially low prices and then buying them back at artificially high prices to compensate for investment losses. The brokers have denied, however, that these acts broke Japanese laws.

American investors say they suffered damages from paying

too much for securities as a result of the false prices. The Securities and Exchange Commission, America's share dealing watchdog, has launched an investigation into how the Japanese firms protect American investors.

Charles Stevens, a partner in the Asian office of Coudert Brothers, the New York solicitor preparing to sue the brokers said: "There were no foreign companies which benefited from this arrangement, which was really a cosy club."

Mr Stevens refused to name his clients, but said they were pension funds and mutual funds [unit trusts], which would take legal action against the Japanese brokers' subsidiaries and parent companies in America. He estimated that the claims for damages would be for tens of millions of dollars. Under American law,

compensation awarded in such cases can then be tripled as punitive damages.

Mr Stevens added: "If you're going to start a war, you had better start it in your own territory, where you know the rules." A spokesman for Nomura said its legal department was unaware of any action.

According to Japanese securities law, loss compensation is illegal only if it has been agreed. The brokers and corporations involved in the scandal have denied there was any such agreement.

Legal action by the American investors comes at a time when pressure on the Japanese firms is building in America.

The SEC has sent letters of investigation to at least three of the four brokers. Some of their executives fear this move could be the start of a rigorous and lengthy investigation.

Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi have confirmed receipt of the letters, which demand that the firms voluntarily supply information, including their policies on protection against securities violations. The SEC also wants to be brought up to date on the investigations of their parent companies. The brokers' response is expected soon.

The letters followed a New York stock exchange enquiry, which asked the branches of the big four to confirm that they are not engaging in a similar loss-compensation scheme in America. It is understood that the firms have confirmed they have no such practice in America.

The Tokyo scandal, which has included allegations that some firms have been financing business activities of Japanese organised crime, has led to the resignation of Nomura's two leading executives and a 10 per cent pay cut for Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese finance minister.

The ministry has also been criticised as being totally inadequate in its supervision of the Japanese market.

Richard Breeden, the SEC chairman, has already made it clear to a government committee that American regulators should look at both the compensation aspect and the alleged link with organised crime.



Brave face: Sir David, after giving warning of likely job losses in the continuing recession, and pressure on costs

## Bank in fight over BCCI documents

By Neil Bennett  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England is fighting to stop the American Congress obtaining confidential documents on the Bank of Credit and Commerce International from the Federal Reserve Board in an effort to preserve its confidentiality.

Eddie George, the deputy governor, and Brian Quinn, head of banking supervision, are in Washington to oppose a subpoena by Congress on the Fed. Congress is trying to obtain the central bank's files on BCCI to use in its hearings into the bank.

The Bank believes international banking supervision may suffer serious damage if the Fed's confidential exchanges with other bank regulators are made public. It could also damage any prosecutions of BCCI officials.

A spokesman at the bank said Mr George is meeting congressional and Federal Reserve officials to discuss how much information can be passed without compromising the Bank's secrecy. The Bank sent the Fed a series of reports on BCCI, to help in its regulation. These are believed to include an uncensored version of the June Price Waterhouse report, which led to BCCI's worldwide closure. Sources close to the Bank say it will stop co-operating with American regulators if it believes it cannot pass on information in secret.

The Congress, meanwhile, is expected to hear new revelations on BCCI's affairs when a senior official from BCCI gives evidence to its committee today. The official, it is thought to be Masihur Rahman, the former chief financial officer.

In Britain, Keith Vaz, the Labour MP for Leicester East, is writing to John Major, the prime minister, after the Bank told him it would not take any part in the talks over a possible rescue for BCCI.

Mr Vaz said: "I am astounded the Bank will not get involved, particularly after a letter from Mr Major last month said it would be working to bring about a solution for depositors."

A Bank spokesman said rescue talks were a matter for liquidators and shareholders, but it would look at any plans on their merits and fully support any move which would protect interests of creditors.

## Courage cuts 1,400 jobs in shake-up

By Tim Jones

COURAGE, Britain's second biggest brewer, is to shed 1,400 jobs in a streamlining operation. The decision results from a company review after the £2.6 billion takeover this year of Grand Metropolitan's brewing interests.

Most of the losses, which were announced yesterday, will be at the company's packaging plant in Isleworth, west London, where 400 jobs will go when it closes next June. Others will include 116 jobs at the Farnell depot in west London and 54 at the bottling line at Halifax, Yorkshire.

The company is a subsidiary of Foster's, the Australian brewer. Michael Foster, Courage's managing director, said: "Putting together two major brewing businesses presented a great challenge. Doing so at a time of enormous change in the industry adds to the task."

He said the company had told the Monopolies and Mergers Commission of the need for closures and job losses when it submitted its proposal for the GrandMet deal.

This effectively meant Courage swapping its pub and

retailing interests for Grand Metropolitan's brewing side. Mr Foster added: "All the decisions we have taken are based on the principle of providing the best service for our customers in the most cost-effective way."

Courage hopes to avoid compulsory redundancies through redeployment, voluntary schemes and early retirements.

The number of its distribution depots will be cut from 47 to 29 in a closure programme to be phased over the next 12 months.

Other job cuts will include: Hoddeston, Hertfordshire (45); Thanet, Kent (17); Taunton, Somerset (26); Haydock, Merseyside (40); Barnsley, Yorkshire (37); Bridgend, South Wales (12); Spalding, Lincolnshire (32).

Other depots will lose 40 jobs and there will be redundancies in technical services (104), sales (130), regional administration (120) and central functions such as marketing and personnel (210).

An expansion of the company's canning and bottling facilities will create up to 150 jobs at its Berkshire brewery.

## Dividend maintained at GKN

By Colin Campbell

SIR David Lees, chairman and chief executive of GKN and a director of the Bank of England, yesterday pleased the City by maintaining GKN's interim dividend at 8p a share despite lower profits. He gave a warning, however, that the recession continues.

Group pre-tax profits in the six months to end-June fell to £47.5 million (£100.5 million), on a turnover of £1.24 billion (£1.4 billion), and net earnings tumbled to 7.6p a share (22.2p).

GKN charged £10.1 million against profits to cover redundancies and a reorganisation that has already meant the loss of 1,300 jobs, of which 1,000 were in Britain. Further job losses, though essentially overseas, are likely in the second half.

Sir David said that lower interest rates would assist a recovery. GKN's capital investment was likely to be £100 million this year, and the group's cost base would continue to be attacked.

GKN shares rose 10p to 348p on City relief about GKN's maintained dividend.

Temps, page 23

## Market hovers below 2,600

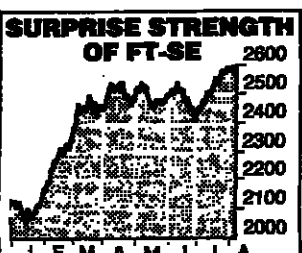
By Our City Staff

THE FT-SE 100 index rose sharply, threatening the 2,600 mark again, as dealers reacted warmly to the overnight cut in the funds rate engineered by the American Federal Reserve. But failure by Wall Street to improve on its strong overnight rise left the FT-SE up 24.1 points at 2,597.4.

Dealers continued to express optimism in the medium-term outlook for British shares. They remained a little cautious for the short term. Shares have risen sharply since the FT-SE stood at 2,054.8 on January 16, its low for this year, as the Gulf war was about to get into full swing. Since then, base rates have been cut from 14 to their present 11 per cent.

Kleinwort Benson said the "breakout by FT-SE through 2,700 is not expected until after the present interim reporting season and until there is a better chance of further base rate cuts."

County NatWest maintains that, apart from the improving inflation outlook, more im-



Stock market, page 25

## Credit Suisse strengthens Canary Wharf commitment

By Matthew Bond

DELICATE negotiations between Credit Suisse-First Boston, the investment bank, and Olympia & York, developer of Canary Wharf, have reached an unexpected conclusion that will see the bank increase its involvement in the London Docklands office complex.

A memorandum circulated to the bank's staff this week has ended months of speculation that it planned either to reduce its commitment to Canary Wharf or to withdraw from the project altogether.

The memo makes it clear that the bank has bought full long-term possession of the 550,000 sq ft building, known as FC 1, and the land on which

the building stands. Staff are told they will move to the building early in 1993, soon after interior fitting is finished.

By taking what is virtually a freehold interest in the building, the bank will be able to take advantage of the 100 per cent capital tax allowances available on development within the Docklands enterprise zone. As a Canadian company whose United Kingdom profits must still be some years away, O&Y has always been keen to pass on the benefit of these allowances before they run out next year.

For its part, the bank believes Canary Wharf will be a success. Luke Terry, who has led the bank's Canary Wharf team, confirmed staff had been told of the move, but refused to confirm details.

An announcement with O&Y, which refused to comment, would be made soon, Mr Terry said.

With Morgan Stanley International, the bank's involvement in Canary Wharf predates O&Y's taking over of the project in 1987.

On a visit to London last year, Paul Reichmann, O&Y's president, said the question of whether the bank was tenant or owner at Canary Wharf was one he preferred not to answer.

Among the many factors that depressed earnings was a sharp increase in interest on financing new aircraft. In the first three months of this year, BA paid £35 million interest against £1 million last year. It also faces stiffer competition from the home base at Heathrow where 87 airlines now operate, 17 more than at the beginning of the summer.

British Airways is far from the only airline facing serious financial problems and its £9 million profit would be envied many carriers. Nearly 20 per cent of American airline business is with bankrupt carriers and among the 22 main European airlines passenger numbers fell

slightly better than originally feared, was none the less depressing. BA said it carried 10.1 per cent fewer passengers in the three months than in the same period last year, and load factors, seats filled per aircraft, had dropped from 72.2 per cent to 69.1 per cent.

Even more worrying are the July figures, also published yesterday, which showed the drop in passengers was even worse than in June. Now BA is pinning its hopes on an early end to the recession that has cut business trips and thus income from ticket sales in the hope of avoiding more redundancies. But Lord King, the chairman, said yesterday that the immediate future holds little sign of an improvement.

In a set of statistics which, though

6.5 per cent in June against last year.

Ironically the number of visitors to Britain from Europe in May rose 14 per cent on a year ago according to the British Tourist Authority, but these people either did not travel on British Airways or paid heavily discounted prices.

Even in July, however, British Airways reported a 9 per cent drop in passengers on European and domestic routes and an 8.6 per cent fall overall. In the three months to the end of March, BA had a 17 per cent fall in passengers and lost £210 million. In April the number of passengers fell 14 per cent, dropped 8.9 per cent in May, 7.6 per cent in June and 8.6 per cent in July.

Basic earnings per share fell from 15.4p last time to 0.8p, a drop of 95 per cent.

Comment, page 21

## The Rothschild Money Funds

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## Heywood slips at half time

HEYWOOD Williams, the distributor of flat glass, aluminium and uPVC products, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £13 million to £8.05 million in the six months to the end of June and has promised only a modest recovery in the second half. Earnings per share slumped from 14p to 7.7p, reflecting both reduced profits and the £28.3 million rights issue in March. An unchanged interim dividend of 4.5p is being paid on the increased capital.

Ralph Hinchliffe, the chairman, said the results should be considered satisfactory when viewed against the difficult conditions in Britain and America. Reorganisation and rationalisation expenses of £500,000 were charged against profits.

## Conroy purchase

Conroy Petroleum and Natural Resources has acquired 20 per cent of the Singleton onshore oilfield in southern England from Terezo Petroleum for a maximum of £1.18 million. Conroy reported pre-tax losses of £145,000 (£132,000) for the six months to the end of February (losses of £116,000).

## Zetters bonus

Zetters Group, the football pools company, is raising its final dividend despite virtually static pre-tax profits for the year to end-March. A final dividend of 6.25p makes a total 11p up at 8p, while profits were £1.13 million (£1.12 million). The board has every confidence of maintained profits.

## Heineken's reach

Heineken, Europe's largest brewer, has made its first acquisition in eastern Europe with the purchase of 50.3 per cent of Komarom Sörgör of Hungary. Heineken did not disclose financial details.

## Meyer expands

Meyer International will buy the business of Guildway, placed in receivership on July 26, for an undisclosed sum.



Historic problems: Rodney Galpin, chairman, who will relinquish some of his day to day running of Standard.

## Brent Walker provisions depress Standard profits

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STANDARD Chartered, the international banking group, has suffered a slump in profits due to provisions of up to £60 million on Brent Walker, the stricken leisure group.

Pre-tax profits fell by a quarter to £83 million after a

rise in bad debt provisions from £89 million to £105 million. A cut in the interim dividend of 44 per cent to 7p follows Standard's decision in March to cut the final dividend as a means of preserving the bank's capital.

Rodney Galpin, the chairman and chief executive, said a substantial part of the pro-

vision was against "one problem account which has attracted considerable publicity".

Standard, which lent Brent Walker more than £150 million, is heading the bank's steering committee trying to rescue the leisure company.

City analysts estimate that the bank had set aside between

£50 million and £60 million against these loans.

Mr Galpin said he was relinquishing some of his day to day running of the bank, and Malcolm Williamson, the head of banking, has become group managing director.

The bank's business was continuing to grow in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, but was being held back by historic problems in its lending in Britain, America and Australia, Mr Galpin said.

The latter countries contributed a trading loss of £66 million, while trading profits from the Asia-Pacific region reached £100 million.

Profits from the Middle East and South Asia rose by a fifth to £18.3 million despite the Gulf war. Mr Williamson said business was growing in the Gulf after the bank's decision to continue operating throughout the war. Mr Williamson said Standard no longer wanted to expand its lending in these areas, but instead will concentrate on fee-earning operations, including treasury dealing and trade finance.

Standard also suffered a heavy tax charge of £54.7 million, or 65 per cent, due to its lack of earnings in Britain. Richard Stein, finance director, said the tax charge would fall once the bank returned to profitability in Britain.

The bank blamed a rise in costs of 13 per cent to £370 million on competition for banking staff in Hong Kong and Singapore, where salaries are rising sharply, and on its £11 million investment in retail banking systems this year in the Far East. Mr Williamson said the bank was not satisfied with this rise and was asking its operations in those regions to reduce their costs.

## Royal Bank gives warning

By OUR BANKING  
CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE Younger, the chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, has warned shareholders that a further rise in bad debts will depress profits in the year to end-September. The figures will also be affected by a £25 million reorganisation charge related to 1,000 job losses at the bank.

Mr Younger's comments

coincide with preparations for the bank's issue of £200 million preference shares in America to fund its operations there.

Trading conditions continued to be difficult, Mr Younger said, adding: "We foresee little likelihood of any significant upturn in the UK economy before the end of 1991."

In the half year to March, Royal Bank's pre-tax profits fell 58 per cent to £72.4 million, while analysts in the

City are expecting profits for the full year to slide to about £170 million, from £262 million last year.

The exceptional reorganisation cost comes mainly from redundancy and early retirement payments. In the past year, the reorganisation has been accelerated.

Mr Younger assured shareholders, however, that the bank had no plans to cut its final dividend. None the less, the shares fell 2p to 183p.

## SIX MONTHS' REVIEW COMMERCIAL UNION PLC

## Life business strong Non-life markets remain difficult

★ Operating loss before taxation  
£26.3m (1990 profit £16.0m).

★ Life profits increased by 9%  
to £53.7m with good new life  
premium growth of 24%.

★ Despite some increases, non-life  
premium rates remain inadequate,  
particularly in the United Kingdom.

★ Shareholders' funds increased  
by £135m to £1,370m.

★ Interim dividend 9.25p (1990 9.00p).

### HIGHLIGHTS

	6 months 1991 Unaudited	6 months 1990 Unaudited
Total premium income	£2,213m	£1,917m
Operating result before taxation	(£26.3m)	£16.0m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£15.3m	£54.7m
Earnings per share	(5.0p)	2.1p
Interim dividend per share	9.25p	9.00p

Note: Profit attributable to shareholders includes realised investment gains after taxation of £36.8m (1990 £45.5m).

The interim dividend of 9.25p per share will be paid on 15 November 1991 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 22 August 1991 and will cost £40.7m (1990 £38.5m). Shareholders will be offered the choice of receiving fully paid ordinary shares, rather than cash, in respect of all or part of the interim dividend. Full details of this offer will be sent to shareholders on 12 September 1991.

The interim report will be circulated to shareholders on 15 August 1991. Members of the public may obtain copies of the report thereafter by writing to the Shareholder Relations Service, Commercial Union plc, St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ or by telephoning 071-263 7500, ext. 8966.



COMMERCIAL UNION

## Wickes in red despite quarter's profit

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Wickes, the DIY retailer and timber merchant, rose 5p to 47p after the company indicated it had returned to profit in the second quarter of the year.

This profit came too late, however, to prevent the company recording a pre-tax loss of £12.9 million for the six months to end-June. Henry Sweetbaum, chairman, said he was confident that the company would remain in profit for the rest of the year, but not sufficiently to wipe out the loss made in the first quarter.

The first-half loss was struck after the company made an operating profit of £5.1 million in the second quarter and a pre-tax profit of £1.1 million.

He emphasised that the return to profit was not related to any general economic recovery. No interim dividend has been paid and no final dividend is expected.

The recovery came in the wake of February's one-for-one rights issue, which raised £42 million of new money for the highly geared company and prevented the breaching of its banking covenants.

Wickes' problems historically have stemmed primarily from Hunter and Malden, its timber businesses bought from Hillside from £283 million in 1988. Mr Sweetbaum said the recovery in these was the fruit of a two-year programme of cost cutting and positive cash management.

During the half year, the company generated £3 million of cash which, together with the proceeds of the rights issue, reduced borrowings by £45 million to £96 million.

## Ansbacher hit by low M&A levels

By OUR BANKING  
CORRESPONDENT

HENRY Ansbacher, the merchant bank, has suffered a slump in profits of four fifths because of the low level of merger and acquisitions activity in the first half of the year. As usual, there is no interim dividend.

Discontinued profits fell from £5.07 million to £1.02 million. The profit represented a turnaround from losses at the end of last year, when Ansbacher was forced to write off part of its loans of £4.7 million to the collapsed Levitt Group, the financial services concern.

The bank blamed the slump on a lack of business in its specialist media mergers and acquisitions department. The core merchant banking division made a profit of only £37,000 during the period, down from £4.49 million. Most group profits came from offshore banking activities.

### FTSE 100 VOLUMES

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey Nat 2,482	Cadbury 1,059	London 451	Royal Bank 4,673
Adia-Lyons 1,836	CU 810	Luxor 1,294	Royal Ind 1,025
Anglia 384	Courtauld 1,919	Magnum 2,181	Sainsbury 1,250
ASDA 2,781	Enterprise 615	Magnolia 1,791	Scott & N 1,849
AB Foods 284	Euromet 391	MEPC 123	Scott Power 4,288
Anglo 2,488	Fisons 3,446	SEAS 547	Seas 1,894
Ang Wagg 1,659	Forta 3,197	SEI Power 7,168	Severn-Tint 12
BAA 744	Gen Acc 298	Net West 945	Shall 3,415
BAT 875	GE 2,259	N W Water 1,521	Smith & N 1,850
BT 3,663	Glaxo 2,036	SK Search 1,284	SK Search 1,284
BAT 1,086	Grand Met 1,434	Pearson 245	Sun Allot 1,294
Barclays 7,102	GU 109	Pindragon 2,678	Tarmac 1,087
BSE 828	GU 109	PowerGen 2,514	Tate Lyle 1,087
BICC 428	Guinness 1,801	Prudential 3,932	TSB 3,312
Blue Circle 875	Hawker 445	Reck 5,732	Tesco 3,558
BOD 582	Hilldown 2,051	RAC 848	Thames W 788
BOD 1,598	ICI 818	Redland 718	Thomson 3,301
Br Aero 948	Imperial 745	Reck 5,732	Thomson 3,301
Br Airways 6,400	Kingfisher 527	Reck 5,732	Thomson 3,301
Br Gas 4,275	Lamco 506	Reck 5,732	Thomson 3,301
Br Hotel 2,957	Ladbroke 1,523	RAC 848	Thomson 3,301
Br Steel 2,924	Land Sec 819	RTZ 880	Whitford 891
Br Telecom 3,024	LBS 1,498	R-Force 1,384	Williams 1,101
C&W 2,865	Lloyds 2,570	Renova 1,776	Wills Cor 383

### RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	Moorgate Smk Cos (100p)	105
Aberforth Smk (100p)	119	105
Alliance Plc (100p)	104	105
Brabant Res (155p)	112	105
Capital Ventures	105	105
Claremont Gms (175p)	170	105
Contra-Cyclical (100p)	105	105
Culver Hidge (4p)	9.25	105
Dayton Sdn Cps (100p)	101	105
EFM Inc Ltd (50p)	68	105
Edco	38	105
East Germany Int (100p)	88	105
Elonbrook	88	105
Europamp (225p)	240	105
Gartmore Inc (100p)	102	105
Geared Inc (100p)	102	105
Greenwich Res	232	105
Headline Book (100p)	123	105
Lowndes Lamb (200p)	308	105
Manchester Utd (85p)	287	105
Mitro Group (125p)	105	105

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### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## NMC lifts bid for API by a third to £32.8m

NMC Group has raised its hostile bid for API Group, the rival packaging concern, from £24 million to £32.8 million but declined to include a cash alternative for the ordinary shares. The latest offer, which has been declared final but was rejected by API as "still inadequate and continuing to undervalue API", is of 23 new NMC shares for every 10 API shares, valuing each share at 153p. API shares, worth 77p the day before the original bid, rose an additional 20p to 150p. NMC shares were unchanged at 67p.

The cash offer for API preference shares has been increased 15p to 85p. API Group forecast pre-tax profits this week of £1.5 million for the final six months of the current year, compared to losses of £249,000 in the first half. The company pledged to maintain the full-year dividend at 6.75p a share and forecast an 11 per cent increase to 7.5p next year.

## Rotork up at £4.35m

ROTORK, the maker of valve actuators and engineering products, bucked the gloomy trend in engineering with pre-tax profits of £4.35 million in the six months to end-June, up from £3.75 million last time. The interim dividend rises from 3.85p to 4.25p. The company said demand for actuators had been strong. The shares rose 4p to 252p.

## Bond Corp kept waiting

BOND Corporation is back in limbo after the Australian Stock Exchange yesterday deferred a decision on delaying the company until tomorrow. As a result, a hearing in the supreme court of Western Australia to consider the company's scheme of arrangement may have to be put off. An exchange listing is one of the conditions for the scheme.

## Resort reaches forecast

RESORT Hotels, the Brighton hotels chain, unveiled a 26 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £4.58 million for the year to end-April, just ahead of the £4.5 million forecast at the time of February's £12.1 million rights issue.

The increase follows a 19 per cent rise in turnover to £12.2 million. During the year, the company enlarged its portfolio to 41 hotels, which collectively have 1,700 bedrooms. Operating margins improved to more than 36 per cent. A final dividend of 2.2p is being paid (2.15p), to give a total of 3.4p (3.25p).

## Brussels reviews bid

THE European Commission is reviewing the bid by Digital Equipment International, part of the American Digital Equipment Corp (DEC), for parts of Philips Electronics' information systems division. The commission will decide whether to launch a full enquiry on the grounds that the takeover could hurt computer industry competition.

## Brabant seeks more licences

BRABANT Resources, the oil company that has applied for additional southern England licences under the fourth round of applications, reports a pre-tax profit of £33,000 on a £13.3 million turnover for the six months to end-June. Comparisons with the previous interim period are not strictly valid because of adjustment payments in that period.

## Cash lifts leisure firm

TOMORROWS Leisure, the snooker hall, golf course and hotel operator, continues to make the majority of pre-tax profits from its cash holdings. Operating profits in the year to end-March were just £82,000, against a not directly comparable £197,000, but interest receivable boosted profits before tax to £260,000.

Last time, the company reported £8.06 million pre-tax, but this included a £7.35 million exceptional gain from the sale of George Washington Hotel. The dividend is 1.25p (1p).

## Relyon edges up to £1.75m

RELYON Group, the soft furnishings concern, reported pre-tax profits of £1.75 million (£1.73 million) for the six months to end-June, on a turnover of £22 million (£20.4 million). There is an unchanged interim dividend of 1.75p a share. Relyon forecasts an improvement in full-year profits on last year's £3.24 million pre-tax.

## WB makes call for £3m

WB INDUSTRIES aims to raise up to £3 million net via an open offer of nine-for-50 at 50p to help redress a stretched borrowings. WBI reports an increased pre-tax loss of £1.59 million (£889,000 loss) for the year to December, and makes a £2.33 million extraordinary charge for property investments and closure costs. There is again no dividend.

### MAJOR INDICES

New York:			Brussels:		
Dow Jones	3025.94	(+1.34)*	General	5761.89	(+23.19)
S&P Composite	380.79	(+0.17)*	Paris: CAC	467.78	(+1.84)
Tokyo:			Zurich: S&K Gen	544.8	(+3.0)
Nikkei Average	2989.02	(+226.06)	London:		
			FT-A All-Share	1238.57	(+10.36)
Hong Kong:			FT-B100	1372.72	(+11.08)
Hang Seng	4081.31	(+40.04)	FT-Govt Secs	85.65	(+0.22)
FT-SE Euro 100	1113.71	(+7.62)	FT-Fixed Interest	94.49	(+0.04)
Amsterdam:			FT-Govt Secs	85.65	(+0.22)
CBS Tendency	92.9	(+0.3)	Berlin:		
			SEAG Volume	490.8m	
Sydney: AO	1581.3	(+12.0)	USM (Datastream)	125.01	(+0.43)
Frankfurt: DAX	1631.43	(+19.55)			

\* Denotes latest trading price

## PSIT Property Security Investment Trust plc

RENTS UP SCRIIP ISSUE

- Investment rents up from £13.3 million to £15.3 million.
- Other investment income rose from £2.6 million to £3.4 million.
- Profit before tax £4.7 million against £8.5 million last year.
- Further lettings at Chichester Business Park.
- Work complete at Hanover Business Park and 50% pre-let to V.G. Instruments now occupied. Further letting since year end.
- All overseas properties fully let and showing good rental increases.
- Group's investment properties fell from £251 million to £235 million.
- Acquisition since year end of industrial investment, covering 11 acres at Fleet in Hampshire.
- Net asset value per share £1.85 against £2.15 last year.
- Maintained dividend of 3.75p for the year.
- 1 for 5 scrip issue.
- Directors expect to maintain dividend on increased capital.
- The Company has no off balance sheet financing.

Results for the year ended 31st March 1991

	£000's	1991	1990
Total rents receivable	15,492	13,696	
Net property income	14,780	12,793	
Profit before tax	4,733	6,450	
Ordinary dividend per share	3.75p	3.75p	
Share capital and reserves	179,729	200,143	

Copies of the complete Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 3rd September 1991 and copies may be obtained from G.H. Cairns, Managing Director, Fetcham Park House, Lower Road, Fetcham, Surrey, KT22 9HD.



# BA flies on, bloody but unbowed

## COMMENT

Grim they may look, but British Airways' first quarter profits of just £9 million from £1.25 billion of turnover are the envy of almost all of the rest of the world's leading airlines.

The blows that knocked BA off course, recession in America and Britain and the Gulf war, have tipped most leading carriers into heavy losses during the March to June quarter. In America bankruptcies abound and dividends have been passed in Europe.

BA may not have much to show for an extremely tough three months. But without decisive action to contain costs and to rein back spending it would surely have joined the ranks of the losers. The stock market may still be wary of the coming months, when trading will remain difficult, but it recognised BA's meagre profit as much better than expected and marked up the shares 8p to 183p.

There were other factors working against BA. Greatly increased competition at Heathrow, still BA's stronghold, from the 17 new airlines now allowed to land there is a threat to market

share especially on North Atlantic routes. Some newcomers have been offering heavy incentives to travel agents in order to establish themselves in a new market and BA has largely refrained from entering this particular fray.

The market in second hand aircraft, in normal years a steady source of profit for BA, is effectively closed. Asset sales amounted to £48 million in the first quarter of last year. Interest charges were £34 million higher, largely reflecting high borrowings to finance aircraft purchases.

Nevertheless BA came through with a positive cash flow, generating £58 million. Costs were contained. Spending on fixed assets fell from £293 million in the first three months of last year to £264 million and thanks to a refund of progress payments, net capital spending was squeezed, rising just £7 million to £1,216 million.

Over the full year, BA will be

pushed to make £60 million before tax assuming the used aircraft market remains effectively dead. Meanwhile unbundling non-core operations will release possibly substantial funds and further trim the operating cost base. Battered and bloody BA may be. But it is certainly unbowed.

## EC bid rules

Gentlemen at the Institute of Directors appear to have suffered an unnecessary attack of xenophobia when they say the EC should abandon harmonisation of takeover rules in favour of the 12 member states each devising their own controls.

Two years ago, Coopers & Lybrand, which had been retained by the EC to report on the

matter, said the best idea was largely to adopt Britain's takeover code as the prototype because most of the takeovers in the Community had occurred on this side of the Channel and a tried and true system had already been implemented. It seems that the IoD and the EC have a similar goal, it is just that the means of getting there is different.

Martin Bangemann, the internal market commissioner who bears the responsibility for harmonisation, is likely to be horrified at leaving members to think up their own rules. He knows some would never get around to it while others could introduce a code with so many protective and troublesome wrinkles that prospective bidders would shy away from looking for targets in that country.

It is difficult to see how this

free for all would assist the universal aim of trying to create a level playing field.

These concerns are the flip-side of the IoD's case that a lack of flexibility in a unified code can lead to takeovers becoming bogged down in court and eventually failing. There is nothing in the EC directives which frown on the establishment of national takeover panels to implement a unified code. It is these bodies which will trim and adjust this code to fit the requirements of individual members.

## Bank loans

Bankers, like bookies, conduct a balancing act of risk and reward. A banker should always remember that some debts are never repaid, and must price his lending accordingly. There may also come a point where risk and reward simply do not equate

without lending venturing into the territory of usury and refusal is sensible. Unfortunately, someone's sums at Standard Chartered went seriously awry last year.

The bank's provision of at least £50 million against Brent Walker shows that Standard and others were seriously underpricing their lending in the late Eighties. Standard was happy to pump more than £150 million into the leisure group at a competitive rate. Even if nothing had gone wrong at the company, the profit on the loan would have been slight.

Predictably, Standard is now wary of lending in the developed world. The bank now plans to use its global network as a fee-driven operation, offering treasury and trade finance facilities. One more indication that banks are returning to sanity, after two decades of destructive headlong competition in areas of high fashion, high risk or just high hopes. One day, lenders may again receive a proper return for their risk. But first they must return to basic unfashionable banking virtues like prudence.

# Recession eats into company budgets for staff training

TRAINING expenditure is plunging in virtually all regions of the United Kingdom, although companies are still managing to spend some money on instructing staff despite the recession.

The findings of a survey on regional patterns of training spending will present gloomy reading for the government. The Labour party is likely to point to the survey, which has yet to be published, as an indication that government training initiatives are not stimulating more training spending by companies.

All the main political parties are giving priority to training as an element vital to Britain's future.

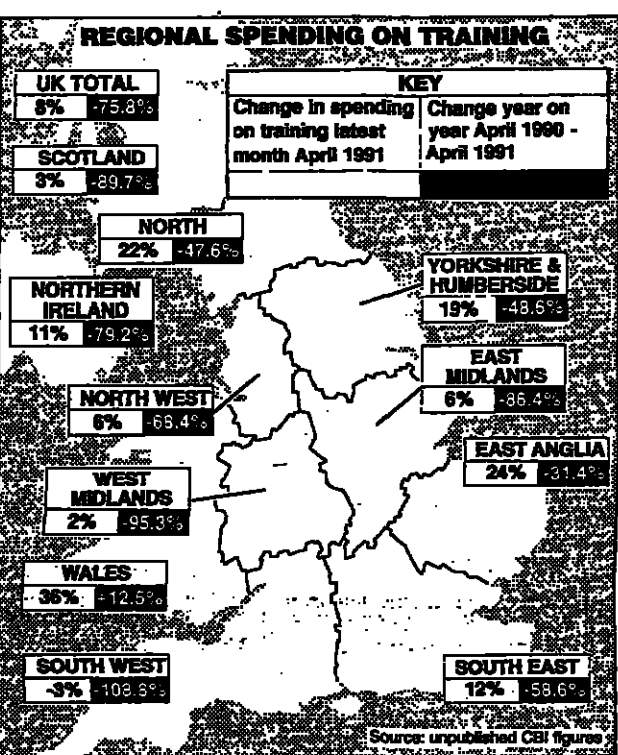
The training figures are held by the Confederation of British Industry, and drawn from the confederation's authoritative quarterly industrial trends survey.

The CBI survey, published last week, showed that spending on staff training among companies across the UK is still holding up in the recession.

While 26 per cent of companies are planning to spend more on training over the next 12 months, 21 per cent propose to spend less, with the remainder set to spend the same amount, giving a balance - those spending more, minus those spending less - of 5 per cent.

This positive spending balance contrasted sharply with negative balances from companies on orders, output, optimism and employment.

Confederation leaders are cautious about drawing too many conclusions from their findings on training because they have been questioning companies on the issue only since October 1989, whereas the majority of the confederation's survey dates back to June 1988. But an analysis by *The Times* of a confederation breakdown of regional spending patterns on training shows that while companies in almost all parts of the UK are still devoting money to training their employees, their



spending has fallen sharply over the last year as the recession started to bite more harshly.

In all regions except the Southwest, expenditure on training is being maintained by a positive balance of companies.

Regional spending figures for April, the latest held by the confederation, show Wales as the region spending most on training, followed by East Anglia and the North.

Spending in the Southwest stands at a balance of 12 per cent. The worst region is the Southwest, where companies have cut their training expenditure: from a balance of minus 1 per cent in January, the region has suffered further, with the balance at minus 3 per cent in April.

Confederation economists expect other regions to slip into negative balances when new regional figures are published next week.

But an analysis of change over the past year shows that spending on training is now

far below what it was in April last year.

Spending on training has fallen by three quarters across the UK as a whole, with some regions recording an even sharper drop. Spending in the Southwest has fallen 109 per cent, while in the West Midlands it is down by 95 per cent, and in Scotland by 90 per cent.

In Wales, spending year-on-year has risen by an eighth, while the smallest fall is registered by East Anglia, at just over 30 per cent.

While spending has varied within the regions over the year, the general trend is downwards. However, business leaders say the fact that companies are managing to maintain any spending on training during a recession as severe as the current downturn stands in marked contrast to the last recession of the early Eighties, when companies cut training spending across the board.

PHILIP BASSETT  
Industrial editor

# GKN retains friends with held dividend

GKN had the distinction yesterday of issuing a poor set of interim results with pre-tax profit down from £100.5 million to £47.5 million, together with a warning about an uncertain second half, and yet see its shares rise 10p to 348p.

The answer lies in GKN's decision to hold its interim payout at 8p a share, even though net earnings fell from 22.2p to 7.6p a share, to which the market, like Francisco to Barnardo in *Hamlet*, said: "For this relief much thanks".

Concern before the results that GKN's dividend might have been under threat, and thoughts of cash call, had kept the shares depressed lately. However, remarks by Sir David Lees, chairman, that there is still no hard evidence of a break in the recession in the fields in which GKN operates still cloud second half prospects, though year-end profit forecasts are now not as dismal as formerly.

Prospects of an uncovered (but maintained) 12.5p final dividend remain real, and the attraction of a 7.9 per cent yield should keep investment interest in GKN alive until real prospects of a recovery help drive the shares forward.

There was a £10.1 million redundancy/reorganisation charge against first-half profits, softened by £1.5 million of pension surplus credit, and gearing has been held at about 40 per cent. There was positive cash flow in the first half. Non-core interests continue to be monitored, and if they do not perform will be sold, and when markets improve, profits should react quickly. For the year to end December, no more than £100 million pre-tax against earlier thoughts of £70 million can be expected (£172 million). But for the yield attraction, the shares, on 22.6 times prospective earnings, would be dear.

## Simon

THE forecasts for the current year for Simon Engineering have been trimmed in response to a cautious trading statement. Conditions have deteriorated since the annual meeting in May and Sandy Morris, of County NatWest, expects pre-tax profits of £30 million, against £32.5 million. The level of enquiries remains

high but these are simply not translating into orders for Simon's collection of specialist businesses. Work is being deferred for as long as possible and Simon is left playing a difficult waiting game.

Interim pre-tax profits fell from £16.5 million to £10.4 million. With earnings per share down from 14.3p to 7.5p, the cover for a maintained dividend of 5p is thin. But, after tapping shareholders for £46.4 million via a rights issue and another £52 million to bid for Robertson Group, Simon is in no mood to cut the final payment.

Trading profits fell from £16.9 million to £12.4 million. The main culprit was process engineering, which broke even after contributing £3 million last time.

The slump in demand from the paper industry in America was to blame and there is no uplift in sight, although, elsewhere in the group, Robertson should make a meaningful second-half contribution. Despite a 13 per cent underperformance for three months, the shares, down 7p to 307p, still trade on a demanding



Long-term strategy: Tony Bred of Commercial Union

prospective p/e of 14 and look vulnerable.

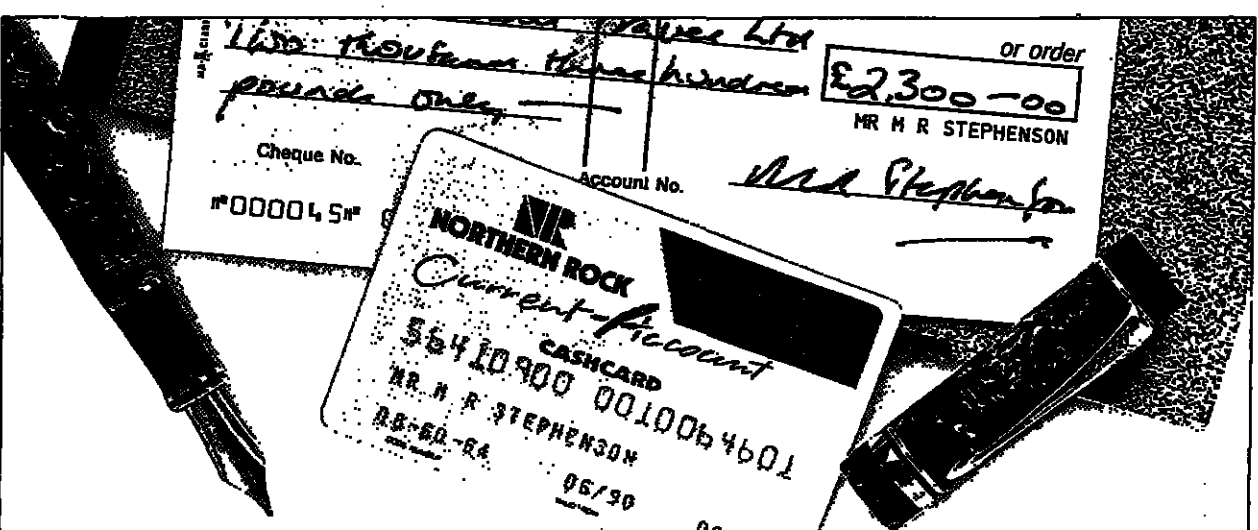
## CU

THE long-expected upturn in the insurance cycle is taking its time. Tony Bred, Commercial Union's chief executive, is sure that the industry is at the bottom of its cycle in most markets, but premium rate increases are patchy, especially in the commercial

income to £145 million, in the first half. Chris Pountain of Morgan Stanley predicts the loss may double for this year as a whole.

Rising share prices have at least pushed reported shareholders' funds up by more than 10 per cent to £1.37 billion, which includes relatively little for life business worth at least £1.4 billion. However, the share price of 539p rests mainly on the dividend. The 2.8 per cent rise in the interim payment may not be much, but maintains the image of rising dividends to back a prospective 5.8 per cent yield if the interim rise is maintained.

The dividend is justified by the substantial and growing life profits. But it will now be at about CU's peak level of earnings per share, which might not be bettered until 1993, so short-term growth prospects are limited. This is one of the best-managed composite groups, with a good, long-term strategy and there is little immediate threat of a rights issue. In the short-term, however, the share price may be ahead of events.



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# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Tripping the light fantastic

JULIAN Jacobson, the Kidder Peabody golden boy who turned his back on the City in 1989, aged 36, has a new scheme up his sleeve. He is set to open a chic nightclub in London - just where and when remains a secret - but he promises it will be a fun venue. "I always said I would open a club or restaurant," says Jacobson, a true jet-setter, who was one of four UK managing directors at Kidder, has a bar in Geneva, and is a regular at Verbier, Aspen and St Tropez. He is sizing up locations and hopes to make an announcement soon.

## Snow-go Rovers

WHAT will the smart cop in Tobolsk, Siberia, be driving this winter? Chances are it will be a Montego, or a Maserati. Mark Jones, chairman of Orbicom, a Midlands trading company, has won a £50 million order to supply nearly

5,000 Rover cars to Siberia's regional government, and a number have been earmarked for the Tobolsk version of the Sweeney. The cars will be shipped out in batches of 500, starting in December. Local villains, who may nurse hopes that the Siberian winters will prove too much for British cars, should heed Jones, who convinced his customers that a car that could stand up to



"This is your captain, first officer and cabin crew speaking..."

British weather was ready for anything.

## Stop-karts

NEWS of next month's go-karting showdown between 30 City firms has caused alarm in banking circles. A party of racing fans, including Paul Geary and Jim Harkins, of TSB Trust, and Mary Richards, of Mercantile Credit, travelled to Northampton International Raceway ten days ago as part of an ongoing bankers' championship. They crashed. The plucky racers emerged unscathed - once the crash had separated the wreckage.

## Slightly faxed

JOHN Barrington-Carver, commodities broker, turned City PR adviser, is busy setting up his own consultancy, after parting company with Ogilvy Adams & Kincaid. One of his first investments was an Amstrad fax/telephone answer service which, he reasoned, would soon pay for itself. After plugging it in, he found he could

receive faxes but not transmit them. "We can't help," said Amstrad, "but phone this (0898) number." Reluctant to pay 45p a minute for the call, Barrington-Carver asked Amstrad to telephone him back. "We don't have the facilities to do that," said the company, "but send us a fax..."

## Kick start

The directors of Manchester United are nothing if not brave. Weeks after their disastrous flotation, they have forked out £2.3 million on a corporate acquisition with a difference. The club has signed Peter Schmeichel, a Danish player, and Paul Parker, from Queen's Park Rangers, for £505,000 and £1.75 million respectively, but the market remains unimpressed. "The fact that they're spending more money may not help the shares," reasons one analyst. The shares, which have slid steadily from an issue price of 385p, were unchanged yesterday at 267p.







# WALL STREET

[illegible]

# Dow rises in early trading

**New York**  
SHARES rose in morning trading, with the Standard & Poor's 500 share index briefly surpassing its previous all-time trading high. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 4 points at 3,031.28, after rising to 3,035, slightly below its record closing high. The S&P 500 rose 0.44 to 391.06 after it reached 391.28, just above its previous record trading high.

□ Tokyo — Prices closed firmer on futures-linked buying in the last hour. The Nikkei index was up 226.06 points, or 0.96 per cent, to 23,691.02.

□ **Frankfurt** — Prices closed a moderately active day firmer, pushing the Dax index just across the top end of its recent trading range. The Dax finished 19.53 up at 1,631.43.

□ **Hong Kong** — Shares ended sharply higher, retrieving all but a sliver of their losses from Tuesday's slide. The Hang Seng index climbed 40.04 to 10,061.31, just under the day's high of 4,067.

□ **Sydney** — The market rose strongly to its highest in a year after a fall in inflation lifted hopes for a cut in interest rates. The all-ordinaries index rose 12 to 1,591.3. (Reuters)

# Wall Street lifts London prices

**SHARES** made widespread advances, with the FT-SE 100 index soaring to within a whisker of the 2,600 level

whisker of the £200 level again, spurred by gains on Wall Street. The London market's summer malaise was forgotten for the time being with dealers encouraged by the underlying firm tone.

An absence of sellers pushed shares higher in early trading after overnight advances in Tokyo, where the Nikkei index climbed 226 points, and a 38-point jump on Wall Street after the Federal Reserve eased overnight lending rates and left the way clear for a cut in the prime rate.

**A firm start on Wall Street**  
and a healthy premium in the

September FT-SE futures on the spot index further helped market sentiment and pulled shares higher. The FT-SE 100 index ended near its best, closing 34.1 up at 2,507.4, to 304p. Barclays firmed 5p to 462p. Lloyds 2p to 381p. Midland 9p to 239p and National Westminster, helped by profit upgradings after its results added 8p to 345p.

closing 24.1 up at 2,597.4, having been ahead by 24.7 points at one stage. The FT index of 30 shares added 25.9 to 2,014.9.

Volume, bolstered by a couple of programme trades—including a substantial buy thought to be worth £30 million and apparently undertaken by Smith New Court concentrating on the leading shares—reached a respectable 490.8 million shares. Govern-

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recommending oil shares helped the sector in spite of the news of an accident on the Fulmar oilrig, jointly owned by Shell and Exxon, in the

by Shell and Exxon, in the North Sea which led to the platform being evacuated. BP, which is due to report second-quarter figures today, firmed 3p to 443½p, while Enterprise added 3p to 522p and Lassemo 3p to 331p. Shell was unchanged at 529p.

A block of 2.3 million shares in Tiphook, the container group, was placed at 507p each by Warburg Securities. Tiphook ended 9p higher at 518p on volume of 4.9 million shares. American buy-

API ended 10p higher at 140p after touching 148p. NMC was unchanged at 67p. API rejected the increased offer.

British Airways rose 8p to 183p, with 5.6 million shares traded, after reporting profits well ahead of market expectations. The analysts moved in with their red pens after Simon Engineering suffered a 37 per cent fall in first-half profits and the shares were marked down by 4p to 310p.

Shares in Cable and Wireless ended below their best at 581p, up 3p, having touched 589p, on a volume of 2.8 million shares. Analysts said the increase was in reaction to Tuesday's news that Gordon Owen, group managing director, is retiring, bringing about talk of a new direction for the group and a possible restruc-

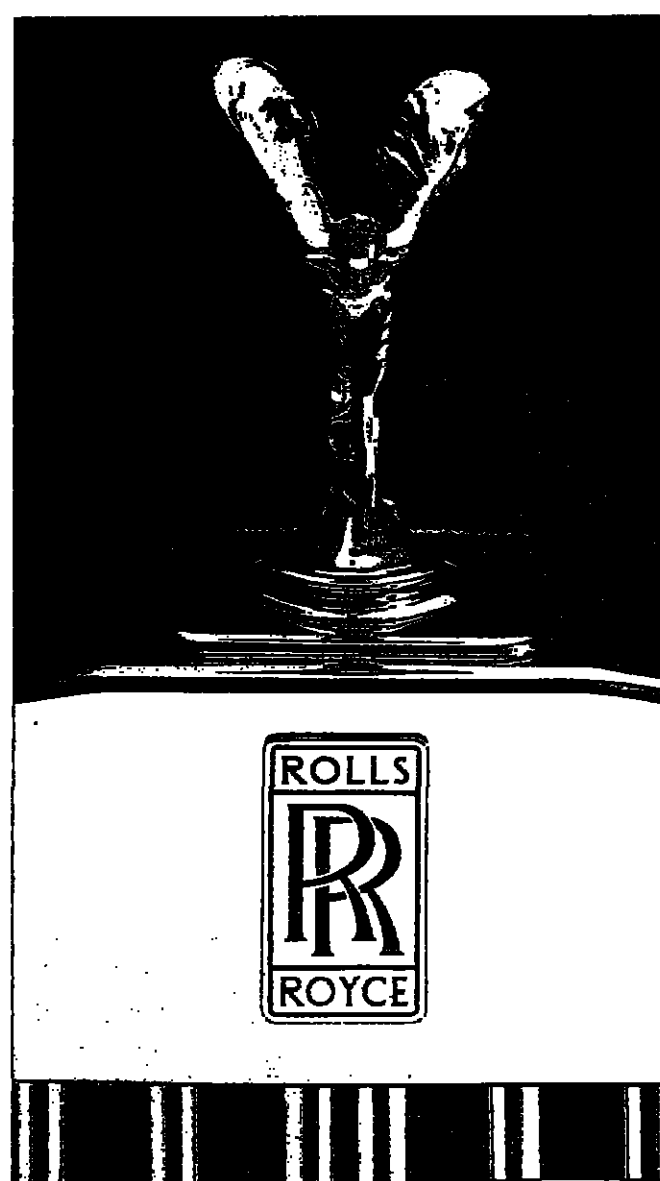
British Telecom added 3½p to 389½p, ahead of first-quarter figures, due today.

ICT, where Hanson holds a 2.8 per cent stake, ended 11p higher at £13.44, on volume of 818,000 shares, in spite of the continued absence of any substantial developments signifying a bid from Hanson. A heavy volume in Hanson, which saw 8.2 million shares traded, saw the price add 3p to 211p.

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CYCLING

# Second lone ranger caught

By Peter Bryan

RICHARD Vireque, of France, inspired by Chris Young's long, lone ride of 95 miles in the opening stage of the Kellogg's Tour of Britain on Tuesday, yesterday tried to emulate the Briton's effort on the 115-mile run from Coventry to Lincoln. Like Young, he failed to hold on to his lead after riding alone for 66 miles.

Vireque finished eighth in last year's amateur world championship in Japan, turning professional, but was denied his first victory among the pros after reaching the five-and-a-half-mile finishing circuit at Lincoln with almost five minutes in hand over the main field.

The Frenchman discarded his food before the first of three finishing circuits which included the half-mile climb of the narrow, cobbled Michaelgate alongside the cathedral. To get a smoother

ride, Vireque took to the pavement whenever he could. For most of the two-and-a-half hours that the Frenchman was clear, the chasing bunch had appeared happy to let him dangle up to five minutes ahead, although Phil Anderson's Motorola team kept the pace high to defend the Australian's yellow jersey.

The key man in containing Vireque's lead was Sean Yates, the Briton on the Motorola team, who was hardly ever absent from front position and "driving like a

steam engine", according to Anderson later.

The leader's advantage came down on the second of the last three laps to three and a half minutes but in a final attack from the bunch, coupled with his having a buckled rear wheel, Vireque succumbed.

Some 20 riders started the scramble for a sprint finish, including one of Europe's top specialists, Johan Museeuw, but the Belgian was not feeling well and told his Lotto team colleague, Hendrik Redant, to

go for victory. In turn, Redant lost his power but Museeuw managed to recuperate and win the stage by inches.

He had been the subject of frequent comment over the race radio. He married on Saturday, enjoyed a 12-hour celebration party and arrived in Britain on Monday, without his bride.

Yesterday's win was his seventh of the season but it did not affect the overall lead of Anderson, who still has one second in hand over Rudy Verdonck. Anderson accepts that the climbers will have the advantage today with two first, a third and a fourth category climb ahead.

The Tour had its first casualty when Adrian Timmis, of Townshead, and Robert Mathew, of Germany, crashed at a reported speed of 50mph in Nottingham. The German was taken to hospital. Timmis, after roadside attention, rejoined the bunch.

RUGBY UNION

# Cloud over All Blacks

SYDNEY (Reuters) — For the first time in some while, the aura of invincibility that surrounds the New Zealand team is beginning to flicker. Not so much due to a fall-off in their own form, but because their opposition here on Saturday, Australia, have laid down the challenge in no uncertain style.

The coach, Alex Wyllie, arrived in Australia yesterday in an unfamiliar position. His team is beset by injuries and many, both sides of the Tasman, are talking about defeat by in-form opposition.

The winners of the two-match Bledisloe Cup series between the world champion All Blacks and a rampant Australia will go into the World Cup, in the British Isles and France, later this year as favourites.

With Australia soaring after record victories over England and Wales, the last thing Wyllie needed was injuries. Already without three key players for the match, at the Sydney Football Stadium, the



Wyllie: under pressure

wing, John Kirwan, and the captain and lock, Gary Whetton, are carrying knocks. "We couldn't have any more injuries. It's been disappointing but we have to live with it," Wyllie said before the team's first training session. He has no doubts about the threat posed by Australia. "They complement themselves nicely and have some combinations working very well. They'll be very tough, they're always tough."

Australia have named the same side which, on July 27, beat England 40-15, while Wyllie will be hoping Whetton will overcome a rib injury and Kirwan a calf muscle injury and sore hamstring. Earlier this week, the full back, Kieran Crowley, withdrew because of an Achilles tendon injury, with Terry Wright moving from the wing to cover for him. The loose forwards, Mike Brewer and Alan Whetton, were already out of contention. The second international will be in Auckland on August 24.

Cliff The Australia B centre, Paul Cornish, may not be able to play again after fracturing neck vertebrae in his team's 21-15 defeat by New Zealand B in Brisbane on Tuesday. Cornish, aged 26, who has played three full internationals, was helped from the field in the tenth minute after a tackle on a New Zealand player.

TENNIS

# Sabatini shows top form

TORONTO (AP) — Gabriela Sabatini further demonstrated the benefit of her decision to not let tennis dominate her thinking, at the Player's Canadian Open women's tournament.

Sabatini, of Argentina, the No. 1 seed, felt she played "perfect" tennis when she disposed of Silvia Farina, of Italy, 6-0, 6-0, in 52 minutes in the second round.

"In the past I was thinking too much about tennis and was putting myself under too much pressure," Sabatini said. "These days, when I'm not playing tennis, I try to do other things — sightseeing, taking photos."

But Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere, of Switzerland, the No. 2 seed, fought back from 4-5 in the first set to beat Rika Hiraki, of Japan, 7-5, 6-0 and had a warning for Sabatini.

"If I play my best tennis, I feel I can beat anyone," she said. "I might sound a little stuck up, but on a good day I can beat Graf, Seles and Gaby."

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A familiar face is attempting to join an elite band at the US PGA Championship

## Watson chasing grand slam

From MITCHELL PLATT  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
INDIANAPOLIS

TOM Watson today tees up alongside Severiano Ballesteros and Nick Faldo in the 73rd US PGA Championship at Crooked Stick knowing he might never have a better opportunity of earning a special place in golf history.

Watson needs to win to become after Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus, only the fifth golfer to complete the grand slam of all four major championships. He has won five Opens, two Masters and one US Open, but the US PGA Championship has eluded him in his 20-year professional career.

It is eight years since he last won a major championship — the Open at Royal Birkdale — and he has won only one tournament in the last four years, yet Watson has played with increasing authority in 1991, which is why Dave Stockton, the United States Ryder Cup captain, is almost certain to select him when he finalises his team following the Championship. Watson was on the threshold of a glorious comeback at Augusta in April until he took six at the 18th hole to finish in third place behind Ian Woosnam.

"To complete the grand slam has been foremost in my mind since I won the US Open in 1982," Watson said. "This is my nineteenth try to win the PGA and I couldn't tell you why I haven't made it so far. It's like I haven't won in Florida. But I am playing like Tom Watson again. What I need to do is learn how to win again. To do that, I need to put four good rounds together, not three."

Watson came closest to winning the PGA in 1978, when he lost a play-off to Joltu Mahaffey. The Crooked Stick course will suit him. The song might say that "it don't rain in Indianapolis in the summer-time", but it has this week and the course will play to every one of its 7,289 yards.

"And that's as the crow flies," David Feherty, who is playing in his first US PGA Championship, said. "It feels more like 9,000 yards out there." Watson has control of the driver, which is essential.



Eyes on a grand slam: Watson is seeking to add the US PGA title to his collection of major championships

### Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	343	4	11	453	4
2	452	4	12	365	4
3	198	3	13	365	4
4	167	3	14	365	4
5	600	5	15	488	4
6	195	3	16	507	5
7	441	4	17	212	3
8	438	4	18	445	4
9	525	5			
Total 3,627 yds		36	In 3,692 yds		36
Total yardage: 7,289		Par: 72			

The coincidence for Watson is that he begins his challenge in the company of two golfers who share his craving to achieve immortality by winning all four major championships. Ballesteros and Faldo have both advanced to the half-way stage by winning the Open and the Masters. A win for either this week would leave him requiring only the US Open.

Watson, who will be 42 next month, is likely to be as spurred by that thought as he is by being drawn to play alongside them in the first two rounds. He can also take comfort in the knowledge that Julius Boros won the PGA in 1968 at the age of 48 and Lee Trevino did so in 1984 aged 44.

However, in recent years, the event has provided Bob Tway in 1986, Jeff Sluman in 1988, Payne Stewart in 1989, and Wayne Grady in 1990 with their first wins in major championships.

Grady, of Australia, the defending champion, said: "I think I'll leave my seven-, eight- and nine-irons out of the bag and load up on woods."

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## Cuba owes it to the power of the people



Two days ago, my hotel, the most comfortable in Havana, ran out of everything but fruit for breakfast by nine o'clock. The day before the opening ceremony of the Pan-American Games, with several large teams arriving simultaneously, the village restaurant ran short of food for dinner. Cuba is in economic crisis.

With four days to go, the public face of the Games has been largely unblemished and a substantial international success. Some of the facts behind the scenes have been less happy. The Games have succeeded because of the people and failed because of the system.

It is said that, after 38 visiting nations have departed next week, and the almost unforgiving courteous officials, interpreters and volunteers have gone back to their normal jobs or studies — for many are students — the buzz of traffic along the spectacular sea front will halt. Havana will effectively have run out of gas. So much of what was to begin with so little has been sacrificed to ensure the Games succeeded.

For the first three days, there was no soap provided in my bathroom, never mind a bath plug. Thirty years of travelling in Eastern Europe, however, conditions you to travel with some essential supplies, while a plug can always be fashioned out of a wad of toilet paper wrapped in a piece of duty free bag. Obliging you to shower, of course, saves hot water.

It has been, until now, the dream of Fidel Castro and his regime that Cuba, attempting the same totalitarian sporting platform as former fellow travellers in the Soviet Union and East Germany, might one day host the Olympic Games. That dream is dead, at least until the regime opens its doors to conventional incentive marketing.

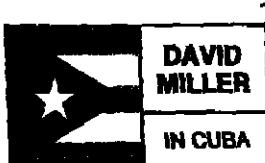
The Games have splendidly shown the Cubans what they can, or could, achieve and, at the same time, what at present they cannot. They have concentrated, predictably, on serving the competitors, and to a degree have done it well. Press communication facilities, on the other hand, have ranged from poor to disastrous, even though every stadium has a range of working, relaxing and refreshment facilities not always to be found at other leading events.

Actually transmitting the news has been problematic. No collect calls, no fax, poor computer links, in some instances no credit-card slips on which to take a card payment imprint for overseas calls; delays on incoming foreign calls of an hour or so because of congestion, a malfunctioning local telephone system, disorganised seating, etc.

Watching Castro at close quarters, as I have had the opportunity to do at several private functions and in public at event venues, there has been the evident pleasure of every showman with a large audience: in Castro's case, with the not infrequent experience of embracing, literally, many members of the capitalist world.

If the message of the Games — the need for ideological osmosis — has not reached El Comandante, it has certainly penetrated many of his subordinates; not to mention the man in the street, who has to queue an hour and a half at one of the many pizza bars for a soggy slice of questionable quality.

Havana, indeed the whole country, is a waiting stage crying out for regeneration



and development, denied only by its political soul. In revolutionizing Cuba, Castro gave the country international self-respect, education, pride and a future. Now, he is preventing the furtherance of that future.

It has been apparent that Castro, and his former armed-forces lieutenant, José Remón Fernández, the Games chairman, fully appreciate the role played by Mario Vazquez Rana, the president of the Pan-American Sports Association.

Vazquez Rana has been in Cuba almost monthly for the past year and a half to ensure that the deadlines are met in a complete crisis proportionally just as critical as that of the Southern Olympics in 1976.

If the credit for its fulfilment of the Seoul Games was Samaranch's, Vazquez Rana's is the credit here, together with the efforts and sacrifices of the ordinary people. Whatever the objections, and I'm not familiar with them, Vazquez Rana was a controversial addition in June to the IOC, some members afraid of his power. His altruistic contribution to Latin American dignity here — he surely has no need of personal prestige — has been substantial.

There will be many memories to take away from the arrival of a three-hour wait on arrival for my luggage, eventually discover it unattended in another part of the airport, will find, and the friendliness will remain; the enthusiasm of sides introducing visitors to details of the new venues.

The good humour of house maids switching off the vacuum cleaner in the corridor when you go to phone on a bad line in the hotel bedroom; it willingness of interpreters to work long hours.

In Communist Russia, I used to find people helped you because it was duty. In Cuba, they were doing so because it was a pleasure.

The Games have succeeded because of the people and failed because of the system

## Lesser lights stride on to centre stage

By PATRICIA DAVIES

THE ROYAL Liverpool Golf Club, thus designated in 1871, two years after the club's foundation, is a funny old place to find the European professional tournament, which starts at the Hoylake links today. It is a bit like having a skin game at Muirfield — a modern, money-making creation at one of the bastions of the game.

Hoylake is very much a collar-and-tie setting (the tie rule has been waived for the week, but one old hand felt uncomfortable naked in the club-

house without it), with pictures of former captains, all red-coated, lining the walls. Majestic portraits of former Open champions, such as John Ball and Harold Hilton, both amateurs, gaze keenly out, presumably at distant pins, gauging their shots.

There is also a superb study of Harold Janion, secretary from 1900-23. He is wearing a white suit, liberally covered with black spots. It is pure music hall and should make some of the more flamboyant celebrities feel at home. Jimmy Tarbuck, Ronnie Corbett and Kenny Lynch are among those scheduled to play.

On the professional front, it is a chance for the lesser lights to flourish, although it is rather curious to describe the likes of Mark James, Roman Rafferty and Christy O'Connor Jr as such. They have not, however, been in scintillating form this year, being respectively 22nd, 94th and 75th on the Volvo order of merit.

With only three tournaments, including this one, left before the Ryder Cup team is chosen, the trio's hopes of retaining their places would seem to rest solely on Bernard Gallacher's captain's beneficence and he might need a bit of nudging. James, who could do with the first prize of £41,660, to take him over the £120,000 mark and within sniffling distance of the fringes of a place, has forsaken the US PGA Championship to be here.

Rafferty, who was a late entry, at the invitation of a sponsor, is due to try to make his first cent since finishing fifth for fifteenth place at the Murphy's Cup in early June. In golfing terms, his season has been an unmitigated disaster, featuring as it has his controversial exit from the US Open and his last-minute withdrawal from the Open, with a

shoulder injury. In the last three seasons, the Ulsterman has not been out of the top ten in the order of merit, and he was No. 1 in 1989. This season, he has had only one top ten finish.

The top-ranked player at Hoylake is another Irishman, Eamonn Darcy, who, with more than £175,000 to his name, is seventh on the Johnnie Walker Ryder Cup points list. Anders Forsbrand, twelfth in the table, is also here, making his bid to be the first Swedish Ryder Cup player. Per-Ulrik Johansson, the New Swede on the block, tenth in the points, is resting.

## SPORTS LETTERS

### Elitism leads to decay

From Mr Steve Corbett

Hardly a day passes without yet more debate, dispute and counter-claim as to which body, the Football Association or the Football League, should be responsible for the control of professional football. The four-division league, which has served us so well, must be maintained for the good of the game, as it allows both clubs and players the opportunity to find the appropriate level for their talents and ambitions.

Being a traditionalist must not be confused with stick-in-the-mud intransigence and a downright refusal to change an existing structure.

Tradition need not deter sensible progress and I realise that amendments to adapt the league's current set-up to future demands need to be considered. Personally I believe in a first division containing a maximum of twenty clubs, while I also think that there are definite, albeit largely economic, grounds for considering a reintroduction of a regionalised third-fourth division.

As has seemed, though, that anybody at the highest level cares for it, and many hundreds of thousands like me, are against the idea of such a super league. I am, therefore, gratified to see the inclusion of two important contributions to the debate. One came from the England manager, Graham Taylor, who expressed doubts as to the stated

benefits to the England team of a League Two (two extra weekends free from League matches).

For me, though, the most significant comments came in *The Times* (August 2), when Steve Coppell, the manager of Crystal Palace, voiced the opinion of I suspect, the vast majority of football supporters in this country. Coppell described the proposals as "the worst thing that has happened in football in a long time. It is magnificent for the few clubs, but no good for the rest of us."

He also clearly identified the root cause of this whole debate on commenting: "The big five have got a gun to everyone's head. Either join us or we will blow you away is the threat. Everybody is afraid to stand up and be counted."

Thank God for someone in his privileged position to articulate what the Professional Footballers' Association chairman, Gordon Taylor, the Football Supporters' Association and many others have said all along: the game of football is far, far bigger than any greedy minority, but that same minority could yet still destroy it for us all. Coppell has hit the nail right on the head; it really is time for everyone involved in football to stand up and be counted and to think of the long-term good of the game and not just their own short-term financial rewards. Otherwise soon there might not be a game as we now know it.

STEVE CORBETT, 62 Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

### TCCB is not in touch

From Mr Giles Firbank

Since it has been reported (August 6) that Chris Middleton, chairman of Derbyshire CCC and Nigel Bett, chief executive of Sussex CCC, have been disciplined for, it seems to me, simply for being honest, spin truths. Mr Middleton's putative misdemeanour has been to state that Mickey Stewart's journey to Derbyshire to coach Devon Malcolm on a one-to-one basis was a totally wasted journey.

Proclaiming that it was such a waste of money, Malcolm has significantly failed to produce required results and has, significantly, been jettisoned — whether as a result of Mr Stewart's ministrations or otherwise, I know not.

Mr Bett's comments were valid when he effectively averred that the TCCB was not in touch with the wishes of some counties, as well as those of the general cricket public. Proof that these people in high places are not in touch with ordinary simple folk like oneself is that 87 per cent of the first-class county membership disavowed the new format of coloured clothing etc. for future fixtures on Sundays. This collective view was repudiated, which leads one to question why these views were sought in the first instance. This seems to me to be Nannyism per excellence, except that apparently Nanny does perhaps not know best.

The TCCB does not know other answers besides, e.g. how to produce a team of winners for England. Its record in paucity is that over the last 3½ years in this country England has suffered two series losses in 1986 and single ones in 1987, 1988, 1989, with a similar prospect looming for 1991. To offset this ignominy we had two solitary wins against two of the weaker countries last year, India and New Zealand.

Abroad the narrative is even more notorious. Success against Australia in 1986-87 has been followed by serious failures versus West Indies, twice, Australia, once, Pakistan, once and a dreary drawn series against New Zealand. The TCCB has no plausible explanation

to account for these calamities. It does not know the answers and it knows that it does not know them. It is abysmally bereft of solutions.

The TCCB purports to know what is best for cricket-lovers. May it not be a case of that omniscient mother who brayed (and possibly prayed) that her boy was the only one in step?

Yours faithfully GILES FIRBANK, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, Otterbourne, Hampshire.

**Campaign boost**  
From the Secretary of Capital Kids Cricket

Sir, As an entirely voluntary organisation committed to the reintroduction of cricket into the curriculum of London primary and secondary schools, we would like to thank Philip DeFreitas and Chris Lewis for unwittingly bringing emphasis to our campaign.

The two men who for some glorious hours during the closing stages of the Edgbaston Test brought dreams of a miraculous victory, both learned their cricket at Willden High School — one of the hundreds of metropolitan state schools which no longer have the enthusiasm, or even the facilities, to teach the game to their current generation of schoolchildren. What a pity that these two men's inspirational gift to the cause of creating great English cricketers should have been so cruelly negated by our national selectors who, but a few days later, chose to omit arguably the world's best wicket-keeper (Jack Russell) and the country's most naturally gifted batsman (David Gower) from the England team for the final and crucial match in the series. For those of us who seek to imbue today's youngsters — and their teachers — with the pursuit of excellence, what kind of example is that? Yours sincerely, WILLIAM GREAVES, Secretary, Capital Kids Cricket, Hyde Park Gardens, London, W2.

### Breaking the pattern

From Mr S. E. Rice

Sir, Reversing the England batting order, as suggested by Adrian Jolliffe (August 1), could have the beneficial effect of breaking the negative psychological pattern which has grown within the side during the last decade of Wisden Trophy competition, and which is possibly now the major influence on results between the two sides.

The collapse/recovery syndrome has become too commonplace to be ascribed to coincidence, and suggests that England batsmen cannot relax until the possibility of victory or survival has been ruled out. While the West Indian bowlers probably ease up a little more once victory is assured, they cannot wholly explain why Fringe has batted so much better than Hick.

Until the selectors recognise the existence of a psychological block and try to remove it by taking some unorthodox risks, instead of blaming bad results on a difference in class (which is no longer the case), England will continue to lose games they are quite capable of winning.

Yours sincerely, SIMON E. RICE, 224 Sandybank Road, New Gardens, Richmond, Surrey.

### Botham record

From Mr Andrew Morris

Sir, It is worth highlighting the fact that, the days after his selection to the England Test team was announced, Ian Botham is the only England player, past and present, to appear in both the leading first-class batting and bowling averages. The only other player to achieve this distinction on this occasion (August 6) is Dermot Reeve.

Of all those selected for the five Test matches against the West Indies this summer, just six names appear, and these only once per man. Yours faithfully, ANDREW MORRIS, Bedford School, Bedford.

### Irreversible decision

From J. D. Rose

Sir, Your cricket correspondent and the Hampshire supporters were not unreasonably incensed with the run-out decision against Paul Terry in the NatWest quarter-final match against Nottinghamshire (August 1).

In the third Test match against South Africa at Trent Bridge in 1960, Jackie McGlew was run out in similar circumstances during a potentially match-saving or even match-winning partnership. The *Wisden Book of Test Cricket* records: "McGlew, run out after colliding with the bowler (Moss), was recalled by Cowdrey, but umpire Elliott refused to change his decision."

It seems that, if an appeal is made in the heat of the moment and a decision is given, the decision is irreversible.

If this were not the case there could be post mortems on bat-pad decisions and catches at the wicket which would make the umpires' position untenable. Unless Kevin Evans deliberately collides with Terry (which no-one has suggested), the run-out decision seems unfortunate but absolutely fair.

Alan Lee's comments seem to blame Robinson, a quiet and unobtrusive, but nevertheless fair cricketer, for a unfortunate combination of circumstances.

Having made my point, I expect I would have been as wrathful as the Hampshire supporters if the boot had been on the other foot. Yours faithfully, J. D. ROSE, 52 Russell Avenue, Wollaston, Nottingham.

### Sponsorship questions

From Mr A. I. M. Clark

Sir, The action of H.J. Heinz (The Times, July 26) in sponsoring a try-of-the-match during a Rugby World Cup is an additional sign in the coffin of sponsorship and team spirit. It will increase the mercenary attitude which is already creeping into rugby.

One frequently hears that money is ruining sport and that players no longer enjoy the game as they used to. It is a forward react who spends most of his time scurrying and grafting away with little opportunity to score a try?

It can also encourage selfishness in a player to bid to the ball near the line when he would otherwise pass to a teammate in a position to score.

Sponsorship is primarily intended to boost profits of a company and when the case it withdraws. There is no evidence, if any, that any of our major international sports benefit through sponsorship their ultimate results.

A. I. M. CLARK, 308 Western Avenue, Llandaff, Cardiff.

### Stable climate

From Mr Mike Scott

Sir, Your editorial on rugby sponsorship (July 31) rightly pays tribute to those players who have invested heavily in Welsh, English and Scottish rugby. Current results may not be at the top end of sponsors' expectations but the long-term nature of the investment creates a stable climate for improvement.

Too rarely do sponsors recognise the need for the real and positive contribution their support makes at all levels of sport and which goes far beyond the advertising hoardings or shirt fronts.

Commercial patronage of sport may be a victim of economic reality, but it remains the underlying motivation. MIKE SCOTT, Institute of Sports Sponsorship, Francis Street, SW1.

### Fair franchise

From Mr Justin Harvey-Kelly

Sir, Simon Barnes comments (August 3) on the world continuing to trample itself to death in the race to welcome South Africa back into the sporting world, while at the same time wondering if he missed the newspaper that announced that blacks had been given the vote.

It seems that I must have missed an even earlier media announcement stating that countries had to pass a fair franchise test before being allowed to enter teams in international events.

Yours faithfully, JUSTIN HARVEY-KELLY, Colston Mews, Market Place, Fairford, Gloucestershire.

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 071-762-5946



# Masnun looks weighted to gain deserved reward

MASNUN, a fine third in the William Hill Stewards' Cup at Goodwood last week, can gain valuable compensation in the Brighton Sprint Handicap at the seaside course this afternoon. He is my nap.

Although quoted amongst the outsiders at 25-1, he ran well in finishing just two-and-a-half lengths and half-a-length behind the comfortable winner Noddy and the in-form Macrobain.

Roland O'Sullivan, Masnun's trainer, recently observed that he believed the grey had not been particularly well handicapped, but it is interesting that the six-year-old has now started to ease down the weights a little.

He won a competitive handicap at York last autumn, beating Bertie Wooster, off a mark of 87, but races today from a rating of 80. If he can reproduce that York running, and his Goodwood effort suggests he is coming back to his

## MANDARIN

best, he should put up a bold show off this weight.

His chance is further enhanced by the booking of the accomplished apprentice Darren Biggs, whose claim will take a further 5lb off Masnun's back.

Course and distance Green Dollar looks a potent danger despite top weight. He beat How's Yer Father by half-a-length here in May, and although the runner-up reposes on 1lb better terms I feel Green Dollar may again just have the edge.

The meeting's other sprint handicap, the Edburton Handicap, can go to Very Dacey. Ron Smyth's charge has plenty of early pace, which will stand him in good stead over this fast downhill track, and a repeat of his length fourth to Maggie Siddons (since a winner at Newmarket)

would give him a clear chance to record his first success of the season.

Biggs can initiate a double on Roly Wallace in the Tattersalls Maiden Auction Series Stakes qualifier which opens the programme while Bosambo is nominated to beat the probable favourite figure in the Cliftonville Maiden Guaranteed Sweepstakes.

At Pontefract, Tancred Graze is given another chance to confirm the favourable impression he created when winning by five lengths here last month. He then ran disappointingly when favoured at Catterick but now reverts to the six-furlong trip over which he was successful.

Stylish Gent can complete a treble in the Fred Kay Memorial Handicap. He was the narrow winner of a claiming race at Windsor last time but, as that run came after a lengthy absence, he is likely to improve for the run. He had previously won a claimer over today's course and distance.

The Guy Harwood-trained Sir Bedivere can make the long trip from Fulbourn in Sussex pay in the Stewards Maiden Stakes. He made an encouraging debut when third-and-a-half lengths second to Dibbium in a fair Sandown maiden and with that experience under his belt can go one better here.



Biggs: excellent prospects of a double at Brighton

## Aga takes next step on Aliysa

THE long-running Aliysa case is to continue in the Court of Appeal as the Aga Khan attempts to quash the Jockey Club's decision to disqualify the 1989 Oaks winner. The Aga Khan was defeated in a High Court hearing last month.

Matthew McCloy, the Aga's legal representative in Britain, said: "As far as I'm aware, no case has previously gone to the Court of Appeal. The immediate issue is whether decisions of the Jockey Club are susceptible to judicial review. Once that has been determined, we can look at the particular point of Aliysa and the Oaks."

The Jockey Club disqualified Aliysa after a post-race dose test for camphor proved positive. The Aga claimed drug testing techniques were flawed and the High Court appearance was seen as a necessary pre-requisite to overturn the decision at a higher level.

It appears the Court of Appeal will not be able to follow the precedent set by the High Court, which was entirely predictable as the judges would have found themselves bound by previous decisions," McCloy said.

## Jockey changes catch backers on wrong foot

By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

ADVOCATES of the overnight declaration of jockeys, due to come into effect next week, received further support twice in rapid succession yesterday.

At Brighton, Tony Lives substituted at the last moment for Emma O'Gorman on Sir Valid before the two-year-old, wearing blinkers for the first time, stormed home by two lengths in the Jimmy Heel Memorial Nursery Handicap.

Fifteen minutes later stay-at-home backers suffered a further shock when Threshfield, without a jockey in the morning newspapers, landed a gamble by winning the Jim Handicap Memorial Handicap at Pontefract with the redoubtable Lester Piggott in the saddle. It needed all the maestro's strength before the five-year-old scrambled home.

Threshfield is trained by Barney Curley, who only three weeks ago created a furore when replacing Terry "Archie" John Reid, before the colt, backed down from 9-1 to 3-1, was sent off.

The jockey switches were

further compounded when Emma O'Gorman travelled instead to Pontefract to ride Appealing Times in the Featherstone Maiden Stakes, replacing Ives. The colt, also trained by his father, finished third.

Curley said he did not book Piggott until the morning of the race, explaining: "I have no qualms about not declaring jockeys overnight as all it declares is the early morning betting share for bookmakers."

Norman Gundill, the managing director and clerk of the course, was annoyed that backers throughout the country were unaware that Piggott would be attempting the meeting.

"It is a pity that we didn't know," he said. "We could have aided another five hundred on the gate as you can see from the reception Piggott had as he came into the winner's enclosure."

As for Ives, he was riding his second winner since returning two weeks ago from Hong Kong, where the jockey spent two years as a contract rider to the Jockey Club. He is presently considering a new offer to return to the Far East on August 17 to take up a post in Macau.

"I haven't yet made up my mind what to do, there's a lot to consider," he said. Ives may be indecisive about his future, but there was certainly nothing indecisive about the way in which he bounced the top weight out of the seat to win by two lengths from the joint favourites Luvly Juby and Mister Bandit, ridden respectively by Pat Eddery and Willie Carson.

"I certainly enjoyed that," said Ives. "Mr O'Gorman's horses jump out of the gate and run. In Hong Kong some of them don't run at all."

Carson, in form at Goodwood last week, continued in winning vein by landing a double on Prince Hannibal and Unveiled Prince Hannibal, trained by John Dunlop, made light of defying 9-1 odds in the BTRB Brighton Challenge Cup, the top weight battled on gamely to beat Hidden Quest by half-a-length with Express Account, the third horse, no less than 12 lengths away.

In the Hassocks Handicap Carson brought Unveiled with a late run to beat Abso by a neck. The runner-up is certainly proving luckless as he had been beaten by only a head in the last race the previous evening.

Eddery made the wrong choice in the Black Rock Stakes. He was unplaced on Heron, Serravallo as Tony Clark drew White Blade to a neck defeat of the even money favourite, Heron's Light.

The 7-1 winner carried the green, pink and white colours of Khaled Abdulla, for whom Eddery is contract rider, but White Blade bolted with Eddery before the start at Sandown recently.

"Basically there's nothing wrong with the horse," said Geoff Lawson, Guy Harwood's brother-in-law and right-hand man. "We put Tony on him today because Mr Clark thought it was a good idea as he rides the horse at home."

## Mystiko runs at four

MYSTIKO, the 2,000 Guineas winner, will remain in training next year (Michael Seely writes).

After winning at Newmarket the grey has run disappointingly in the Derby and again behind second in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood.

Clive Brittain, Mystiko's trainer, has some horses coughing and Endell, strongly fancied to win the Ebor Handicap after finishing runner-up at Goodwood last week, is the latest victim. "I am warning everyone not to back him at the moment," said the trainer.

Brittain's concerns about the effects of the equine flu which has struck training centres throughout the country means

that he will confine his team to waiting exercise this week.

Discussing the outbreak, Paul Cunningham, spokesman for the Animal Health Trust at Newmarket, said: "The first recent case of equine flu was diagnosed in Essex on the July 19. Since then there have been five yards in Newmarket and one in Lambourn who have reported cases."

Alan Brown, Newmarket's Cuman reports that his team is recovering. "I think we are over the worst," said the trainer. "This time last week six to seven horses a day were being affected, now only one or two. The ones who got it first are getting over it the quickest."

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	MICHAEL SEELY
2.00 Roly Wallace.	2.00 Mexican Dancer.	3.00 MASNUN (nap).
2.30 Red Fox.	2.30 SULTRY SINGER	3.00 MASLOWER.
3.00 MASNUN (nap).		
3.30 Glassblower.	3.00 Masnun.	
4.00 Bosambo.	3.30 Glassblower.	
4.30 Very Dacey.	4.00 Itan.	
	4.30 Rays Mead.	

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 Gallery Artist.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 MEXICAN DANCER.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F 59YD-6F 20YD, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

**2.00 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION SERIES STAKES** (Qualifier: 2-Y-O: £2,846; 5/21yod) (7 runners)

1 (1)	5053	GREY CHAMBER 3 (M) (S) (P) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)
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BETTING: 7-4 Mexican Dancer, 3-1 Grey Chamber, 15-2 Pearly White, 14-1 Flat Rate, 25-1 Chameleon, 20-1 Very Dacey.

## FORM FOCUS

GREY CHAMBER 1st 2nd to Cinders at Windsor (5f, good to firm) with JACK HILL (same terms) 5th 6th. MEXICAN DANCER 3rd to Marnet at Goodwood (6f, good). ROLY WALLACE stayed on at one pace.

**2.30 RINGMER SELLING STAKES** (2-Y-O: £2,366; 5f 59yd) (8 runners)

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BETTING: 7-4 Coco Queen, 5-1 Roly Wallace, 10-1 Roly Wallace, 14-1 Flat Rate, 25-1 Chameleon, 20-1 Very Dacey.

## FORM FOCUS

KERTALE 1st 2nd to Freddie Lloyd at Fallowfield (5f, good to firm) with JACK HILL (same terms) 5th 6th. MEXICAN DANCER 3rd to Marnet at Goodwood (6f, good). ROLY WALLACE stayed on at one pace.

**2.30 RINGMER SELLING STAKES** (2-Y-O: £2,366; 5f 59yd) (8 runners)

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BETTING: 7-4 Coco Queen, 5-1 Roly Wallace, 10-1 Roly Wallace, 14-1 Flat Rate, 25-1 Chameleon, 20-1 Very Dacey.

## COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
J Barry	160	26	61	R Cochrane	119	18	15.1
R Ross	9	21	38.1	T Quinn	16	17.0	15.3
B Hall	6	26	23.1	E Johnson	12	12.0	10.0
E Wheeler	5	35	14.3	P Eddery	5	5.0	10.0

(Not including yesterday's results)

## Murgatroyd waits on test results

SHARRON Murgatroyd, the amateur rider who broke her neck in a fall at Bangor last Friday, is undergoing tests to help assess the extent of the injury.

A statement issued yesterday by the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, said it would be several weeks before doctors had a full picture of her condition. The hospital said Sharron was "heartened" by the many messages she has received.

Sharron, aged 31, has ridden 14 winners, directed equally between Flat and National Hunt racing.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 OVERPOWER (nap), 4.45 Triesta.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

## 2.45 WHITELANE APPRENTICE SERIES HANDICAP

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Selectors' decision places unforeseen obstacles to hopes of competing in next year's Olympic Games

# McKay facing an uphill struggle

DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, ZÜRICH

BRITAIN'S selectors have been told by Kevin McKay's life more than Steve Cram. By picking Steve Cram for the world championships 1,500 metres place to which McKay had a claim, they have made it harder for him to get to the Olympic Games next year.

McKay felt that his defeat of Cram in the AAA 1,500 metres, the world championship trial race, should have earned him the last place. While there must be sympathy for his disappointment, he had yet to deliver the fast time that would have demanded the replacement of old with new.

The Coo-Overt-Cram-Elit has cast a long shadow over the next generation of middle-distance runners and McKay, aged 22, is having to wait his chance. There are few countries in which such potential would still be waiting the opening to show it.

McKay has not run in an international championship since winning his world junior silver medal at 800 metres in 1988. He would like to be in Tokyo for the world championships not just for the experience but to obtain "a good base for negotiations with work to take time off to train for the Olympics next year". Time off would mean something else taking temporary charge of his work as an advertising accounts executive.

"If you have not done anything, you cannot go and say you are going to do this, you are going to do that," McKay said. Because the Olympic Games are in July, the trials will be in early season: McKay was hoping for perhaps three months of work to prepare. "I do not think I will be able to do that now because I do not have the credentials," he said.

His prospects of getting to the Olympics would be enhanced by the cut and thrust of races on the international circuit next June, but his omission from Britain's world championship team, when it was announced a week last Sunday, has made that harder as well. It is doubtful that he would have found himself in last night's B race here had he been preferred to Cram for Tokyo.

While Cram ran the A race, McKay was left to scrap for

the time which might have been his ticket to the circuit next June — and, the sharper and more experienced for being on the circuit, his ticket to the Olympics perhaps.

"The effect did not hit me until the middle of last week," McKay said. "But I could not let it get me down otherwise my training would suffer. The aim then became to try and improve my time so that it would stand me in good stead for early next year. Because the Olympics are early, it will be a lot busier and harder to get in."

However, McKay, a member of the increasingly strong middle-distance squad coached by Norman Poole at Sale, will have to keep on trying. Last night, he was outside his best time of 3min 36.70sec, although his 3min 38sec for second place behind the Moroccan, Basir Rachid, was his fastest of the season.

In the Pearl Assurance invitation meeting at Gateshead tomorrow, McKay races Cram for the first time since the trial over 1,000 metres. To his credit, he speaks of it in "grudge match" terms more than he resorted to invective over his omission for Tokyo. If he remains as level-headed as he appears to be now, and can find an extra few seconds, he will become a worthy successor to those in whose shadow he now stands.

There is plenty to feast on in the final warm-up before departure to Tokyo. The two miles looks as attractive as any event in the Gateshead programme: Khalid Skah, of Morocco, the hottest property around in 5,000 and 10,000 metres running, is pitted against the fastest man of the year at both distances, Richard Chelimo, of Kenya.

Rob Denmark is likely to lead home a strong British challenge, though Gary Staines might dispute that, and it will provide a test of character for young John Maycock, whose 5,000 metres victory at the World Student Games in Sheffield last month was the greatest treasure of that meeting from a British point of view.

Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, yesterday effectively ruled out the possibility of intervening in a dispute over South Africa's participa-



Running out of time: McKay is working hard to find challenging races in Europe to hone his competitive edge

tion in the world championships in Tokyo. He was responding to a request from the International Amateur Athletics Federation that he lobby in favour of sending a team to Tokyo later this month.

South Africa's Amateur Athletics Association is divided on the issue, but voted 9-5 against participation last month. It has until August 14 to reconsider, and Mandela said the decision should be the association's alone.

"We will discuss the matter with them," Mandela said, "but we don't think it is proper for the international body to pressure a sporting body in this country dealing very effectively with the question."

While Steve Cram may still snatch a headline or two, we are no longer a nation of middle-distance runners; such a conclusion was generally drawn some time ago. On the eve of Britain's challenge in the European junior championships at Tessaloniki, Greece, it bears repeating.

Why? Because the juniors are the blueprint for the future. Britons are hot favourites in four events in the championships which start today, they are warm favourites in another five events, with outside chances in four more. The events are the men's 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, 100 metres hurdles, 4 x 100 metres, 4 x 400 metres, high jump, and triple jump and the women's 200 metres.

4 x 400 metres, high jump and long jump (women), all sprints and jumps. Only Curtis Robb, aged 19 from Liverpool, keeps to the middle distance tradition. He is favourite for the 800 metres.

Darren Campbell, aged 17, with Sale Harriers, is expected to start the avalanche in today's 100 metres. The youngest, also entered for the 200 metres, admits the double could be difficult.

The form lines are good though. Eleven days ago, in the company of his elder, Campbell competed at the A.A.A. W.A.A.A. championships in Birmingham. Mark Richardson could continue in the 400 metres. The

Maidenhead runner, aged 19, competes in his fourth and final international junior championship and would love to bow out with his first gold medal. His main hurdle could be the Wigan athlete, David Grindley.

The same difficulty could await Karl Maddox in the 100 metres hurdles. She has most to fear from her colleague at Cannock, Sam Baker. In the men's 100 metres, Tosi Fasino looks absolutely secure for gold while Katharine Merry should clinch the 200 metres title.

So it goes on, Britain, with the fourth largest contingent at these championships, could end up with the most victories. It would be a daunting performance.

Mark Richardson could continue in the 400 metres. The

## Britain strive for top tally

From a SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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## Avoid green for success on the ocean wave

Wings of Oracle's troubled Admiral's Cup campaign continues. When the results of the protest meeting were announced yesterday, she had dropped two points and now languishes in fifth place.

Her less-than-stunning performance cannot be blamed on a lack of finance. At £1 million, she is the most expensive Admiral's Cup yacht in Cowes, costing more than the whole French team put together. It cannot be the crew. Oracle has changed her lineup more times than Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet since her launch this spring. No, obviously the problem lies in the fact that she is green.

Since time immemorial green has been an unlucky colour in yachting circles. Just ask the Duke of Edinburgh. He has been sailing Sir Owen Aisher's yacht, Yeoman XXVIII, this week, creaming the same buoy he hit last year on Yeoman and crossing the wrong finish line two days later.

History proves that green is not the colour to paint a boat. Sir Thomas Lipton launched five challenges for the America's Cup on five yachts called Shamrock. All but two of them were green and none of them succeeded. In 1901 he committed the second cardinal sin of sailing by taking a young lady friend on board. According to tradition, that is guaranteed to bring bad luck to any boat. A quick look down the cast list of Wings of Oracle reveals the sail trimmer to be one Flight Lieutenant Mandy Gallow. What more could Oracle expect?

Just as most boys dream of being engine drivers, most yotties dream of racing an Admiral's Cup or America's Cup boat. Unfortunately these highly powerful and expensive vessels are for the professionals only.

But there is hope for the amateur sailor. A new £25,000 11-metre design craft, based on the new America's Cup rule, has hit the scene. Claiming to be unsinkable and self-righting, it is designed to look and handle like a racing yacht, while being safe enough for the weekend sailor.

Ren Holland, the designer, wanted to make a Ferrari among yachts within the price range of most yachtsmen without making it look like a Morris Minor. "It's a simple concept and boat to build," Holland said. "Each boat only takes 200 hours to build,

### COWES DIARY

which keeps the cost down, and there are buoyancy compartments everywhere with means it won't sink even if you are hit by another boat."

The whole project has been backed by Timberland, the shoe and clothing company, who are tying in the launch of the yacht with the introduction of a new hi-tech deck shoe. It's a case of wear the shoes and buy the boat. Wear shoes, will travel.

Attention to detail in all things sartorial is the order of the day during Cowes Week. Unfortunately, one doorman took things a little too far at the Castle Rock ball. It said black tie on the ticket, and that is what our hero was looking for. When a handful of immaculately turned-out young gentlemen tried to get in wearing white tuxedos and red bow-ties, they were unceremoniously thrown out. Well, it's more than my job's worth, mate.

If anyone spots a roach pig wandering around Cowes, flag it down — it may be worth hard cash. Chris Troup, of Inn On The Road, is offering a reward for the return of a roach pig he was preparing for the hordes returning to the marina. It was last seen heading for the High Street supported by two less-than-sober individuals. "They can keep the pig," Troup said, "but please can we have our spit back."

One surprising absentee from Cowes Week is the nautically pig-tailed Peter de Savary. Britain's former champion of the America's Cup cause was due to show off his latest toy, the £3 million 123ft sailing yacht, Tarambar, named after two of his children.

Now we hear that the yacht, the first super-yacht to be built at De Savary's Port Penryn shipyard at Falmouth, has not been completed on time. It has left Savary and his crew, racing the De Savary-sponsored British Admiral's Cup yacht, Port Penryn, without their fiercest fan — and an opportunity to look at air their disappointment at his abrupt cancellation of the America's Cup yacht that was taking shape in the town.

ALIX RAMSAY

## Merrythought all smiles in calm

By ALIX RAMSAY

A GRAVE day with no wind and a light drizzle left yesterday's Land Rover Cowes week racing programme in some disarray. The light wind, together with a strong tide, caused trouble at the start and, with a lot of bumping and barging, Infinity and Desperado ran into one another.

But, as the afternoon progressed, the wind dropped even more, forcing the race officer to shorten the course in order to get a finish. The majority of classes finished at an intermediate buoy with only two classes completing the full course.

At the big race of the day, the Britannia Cup, which is celebrating its fortieth anniversary, managed a finish. Jack King's Merrythought took the trophy, coming in 22 minutes ahead of Crispian Corbin, in Dumpy Truck. Not even having Bruce Savage, who had such a

successful season last year in the Lightwave 395, Amanda Kulu, could help Hotson against the former Admiral's Cup captain.

The only other race to finish the full round was the Etchells, where James Baxter, on Point Blank, beat Barry Dunning's Venom into second place by nearly six minutes.

RESULTS: Royal Yacht Squadron Regatta: Lightwave 395 (Amanda Kulu) 1, Lightwave 395 (James Baxter) 2, Lightwave 395 (Barry Dunning) 3, Lightwave 395 (Amanda Kulu) 4, Lightwave 395 (James Baxter) 5, Lightwave 395 (Barry Dunning) 6, Lightwave 395 (Amanda Kulu) 7, Lightwave 395 (James Baxter) 8, Lightwave 395 (Barry Dunning) 9, Lightwave 395 (Amanda Kulu) 10, Lightwave 395 (James Baxter) 11, Lightwave 395 (Barry Dunning) 12, Lightwave 395 (Amanda Kulu) 13, Lightwave 395 (James Baxter) 14, Lightwave 395 (Barry Dunning) 15, Lightwave 395 (Amanda Kulu) 16, Lightwave 395 (James Baxter) 17, Lightwave 395 (Barry Dunning) 18, Lightwave 395 (Amanda Kulu) 19, Lightwave 395 (James Baxter) 20, Lightwave 395 (Barry Dunning) 21, Lightwave 395 (Amanda Kulu) 22, Lightwave 395 (James Baxter) 23, Lightwave 395 (Barry Dunning) 24, Lightwave 395 (Amanda Kulu) 25, Lightwave 395 (James Baxter) 26, Lightwave 395 (Barry Dunning) 27, Lightwave 395 (Amanda Kulu) 28, Lightwave 395 (James Baxter) 29, Lightwave 395 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# Scene set for a compelling grand finale

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

VIVIAN Richards's farewell might, by itself, have been sufficient to sell all 60,000 advance tickets for the final Cornhill Test match. Ian Botham's comeback would have had the same effect. Mix in the intoxicating ingredient of a game England simply must win and you have one of the most compelling occasions of this or any other cricket season.

The "sold out" notices were actually posted at the Oval long before the England team was named, so those with tickets have the considerable bonus of theatre, imagery and occasional fantasy that Botham still brings to any game he plays. Whether this will be enough to turn the tide of the series before England are washed away must, however, be highly doubtful.

Consecutive wins, by nine wickets and seven, confirm that West Indies have engaged that familiar momentum that begins in mid-series and does not relent. Even without Bishop and Greenidge, Richards's team has held up remarkably well and the prospect of them letting down their captain in this emotional match is accurately reflected by Ladbrokes' current odds of 5-1 against an England win.

The Oval is perhaps the last ground Graham Gooch would nominate for a single game to

beat the West Indies. Four of the last five meetings here have been away wins, the other being drawn, and the traditionally prevailing conditions—August sunshine and a fast but true pitch—are all in the West Indies' favour.

There were signs yesterday, however, that things may not be quite the same this year. Gooch had a look at Harry Brad's pitch shortly before morning rain gave way to afternoon rain and came back to report surprising findings. "It doesn't look like a normal Oval wicket at all," he said. "The grass is greener and it is more patchy than usual."

The reason, I understand, is that the square was flooded by a thunderstorm last Friday, which lasted half an hour while the pitch was uncovered. Its effect may be to have drawn some of the pace, and that can only be to England's advantage.

Gooch was loath, as usual, to speculate on the make-up of his team, but it is difficult to see the twelfth man being anyone other than Derek Pringle or, if it is really felt that the pitch will be sluggish, David Lawrence. To leave out Lawrence on what is still likely to be the quickest surface of the series, however, would leave England short of variety in their seam bowling.

That, at least, cannot be said about the slow bowling now that Philip Tufnell is back. An extended spell of solitary confinement after his Australian misadventures has perhaps been remitted one match too late, but it is now to be hoped that he is encouraged to bowl as he wants to, rather than in the parsimonious fashion that England spinners have espoused in recent years.

Tufnell came back from the tour a disorientated young man, his bowling and his behaviour having rebelled against efforts to sanitise it. Hopefully wiser and more discreet in his conduct, he must still be given his head with the ball. Let him attack, let him tease, for that is why he has been picked and that is how he might be a match-winner.

Gooch was not surprised by criticism of the decision to dispense with a proper wicketkeeper. Indeed, he admitted that, in principle, he did not like the tactic. "We considered we had to take the gamble," he added, "and I am well aware it is a gamble."

Alec Stewart will bat at



Stand and deliver: Botham rehearsing the bowling action yesterday with which he plans to ambush West Indies in the final Test at the Oval



## Botham sets sights on the big screen

By ALAN LEE

DESPITE Ian Botham's efforts to demolish it during what passed for a net practice yesterday, a giant colour screen will this morning provide spectators with replays of all the relevant action at the Oval Test match.

This innovation, long since adopted in Australia, has cost Surrey £1.5 million, money they expect to recoup through advertising on the screen.

Botham, mischievous as ever, hit several enormous blows in the direction of the screen, one landing on the

control box next to it. The machine, however, is made up of individual cells, which are instantly replaceable.

Umpires fear the screen will put them under additional pressure, but the idea is that dismissals will not be subject to freeze-frame replays.

A similar experiment at the Oval eight years ago had to be abandoned. The screen distracted left-handed batsmen at the pavilion end and drivers on Harleyford Road. In addition, it lost money. The new screen has been resited, roughly at mid-wicket.

## Appeal providing only cloud on the horizon

By PETER BALL

THE possibility that the Football League will pursue its action against the Football Association to the Court of Appeal was the only cloud spoiling the first division clubs' view of the future at their meeting at Lancaster Gate yesterday.

A request by Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, for the appeal to be dropped was rejected by his opposite number at the League, Arthur Sandford, last Tuesday, and a decision will be taken by the management committee at its meeting on Monday.

At yesterday's gathering, the three first division members present—Ian Storr, of Oldham Athletic, Doug Ellis, of Aston Villa, and Robert Chase, of Norwich City—agreed to vote against an appeal.

Although he was not present, and was one of only three FA councillors to vote against the Premier League concept when it was first presented to them, Maxwell

Holmes, of Leeds United, can be expected to follow suit. If the second division and Associate Members' representatives vote in favour, that would leave the decision to the casting vote of the chairman, Bill Fox, of Blackburn Rovers. It is one that he will relish.

If the legal action does go ahead, the first division clubs will at last fulfil their threat and hand in their resignations. It was also agreed yesterday that they would summon an extraordinary general meeting to try to overturn the League's three-year notice period.

That apart, the clubs were clearly in a triumphant mood following the second division's decision virtually to concede that the breakaway will happen, and to sue for peace.

Apart from promotion and relegation, which is in both sides' best interests and will remain at three-up and three-down as long as the Premier League remains at 22 clubs—

that is, for the foreseeable future—and abandoning the court case, there is apparently little that the second division can offer.

The first division clubs were cool on the prospect of the Football League coming under the FA banner, with a subsidiary embracing all 93 clubs clearly rejected.

"We are not going to have the Premier League and the Football League under the banner of the Football League Limited," Rick Parry, the spokesman of the first division clubs, insisted. "The Premier League and the Football League are going to be separate."

The spectator may not notice much difference, however, if the Premier League does start in 1992-3 season. Promotion and relegation will remain the same, and the clubs will also want to enter the Rumbelows Cup. And the Zenith Data Systems Cup? "That hasn't been discussed," Parry said.

## Britain's hopes slip back

By BARRY PICKTHALL

BRITAIN lost two further points in the Admiral's Cup yachting yesterday when the RAF's troubled Two Tonner, Wings of Oracle, was penalised for hitting a mark during the Champagne Manna Trophy race in Christchurch Bay on Tuesday. The jury decision, which went against the evidence of witnesses and video footage shot by TVS, left Britain eight points behind the leaders, Italy.

The hearing had been postponed from Tuesday night, after a witness from the French crew on Corum Rubis had failed to turn up. Yesterday, the French not only brought along their sail trimmer, Thierry Fouchier, but there was also first-hand evidence. The Australian crew from Bimblegum, which also lodged a protest, failed to turn up on either day.

Stuart Childerley, Oracle's skipper, was sanguine about the outcome, although he was annoyed that the dispute had cut into valuable preparation for the 40-mile inshore race in Hayling Bay today. "We could have done without the time-wasting," he said.

The eight-point gap is equal to four places in the Fastnet, if Britain are to overtake the Italians and Americans and retain the trophy. "All we need is a good race like Monday and we can level the score," McIntyre said.

Childerley confirmed that Simon Ling, Oracle's RAF bowman, injured on Monday, was unlikely to make the start of the 605-mile Fastnet classic.

Other changes involve Port Pendennis, the smallest of the British yachts. Lawrie Smith will relinquish the helm to skipper the Rothmans maxi in the Fastnet and be replaced by Jo Richards. Her designer, Ed Dubois, is to be replaced by the second helmsman, David Bedford.

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## Rendall and Probyn in surprise move from Wasps to Askeans

By PETER BILLS

THE growing problem of aggressive recruitment and player movement within English club rugby was emphasised again yesterday with the news that Wasps' two England international prop forwards, Jeff Probyn and Paul Rendall, have been registered for the new season with the Kent club, Askeans.

The startling move, just two months before the World Cup, seems likely to mean the pair, who have 52 full international caps between them, will exchange first division rugby with the club, which was England's league champion side 12 months ago, for third division rugby. It is unusual by any standards.

Officially, Rendall said yesterday that, while he had been approached to go to Askeans, he had not yet made a definite decision. Probyn is on holiday. But the Kent club have confirmed that both players were registered by them in time for the August 1 deadline, the date on which players wishing to play league rugby this season must confirm their availability.

The Askeans secretary, Alan Eastick, seemed in no doubt yesterday that the players were going to Kidbrooke. "I can confirm these two players have been registered by us and will be available for our league matches after the World Cup. This all cropped up out of a conversation in the Twickenham car park on Middlesex Sevens day and went on from there."

"We are delighted to have got them. These recruits signify our determination to get into division two and they will also help us to put our name on the map."

The news came just 24 hours after Leicester's director of coaching, Tony Russ, had warned of the increasing dangers to the game of certain clubs' active policy of recruitment. Russ's general concerns were strongly supported yesterday by the coach of Wasps, Rob Smith, who confirmed that many of his players had been offered inducements this summer to join other clubs.

Smith said: "At least 15 of our players have been approached and they have all received incredible offers. Even players in our second

and third teams have been offered money to join someone else. People have been on the telephone pressurising them to leave here and offering money. Some are rising stars and want to play with a club which will benefit them while others, coming to the end of their days, have other considerations."

"I don't know what people are being tempted with, but with so many rumours now rife within the game, questions have got to be asked. We are like Leicester, we just do not pay players. But you have to pay them."

"I hope that Rendall and Probyn will stay with us. It would be absolutely devastating for us if they did go. But, on a wider front, all this has to be a big worry for the game in general. I fear it is going to damage rugby long-term."

Gary Halpin, the tight-head prop capped by Ireland against England in 1990, is one of a wave of recruits to newly promoted London Irish. Halpin, aged 25, has joined the club from Wanderers, along with a number of former Wasps players, who include David Pegler, captain of the England B team between 1988-90.



Probyn: approached

## Peake wants to stay in Coventry

TREVOR Peake, the Coventry City captain, who was transfer-listed after a drinking session, wants to remain in the Midlands.

Peake, aged 34, and colleagues Lloyd McGrath, 26, and Kenny Sansom, 32, were listed and fined for breaking club rules last week. "As a local lad, married to a local girl, obviously I would like to stay here," Peake said. "I had to see to it my playing career at Coventry City."

After the incident the three were sent home in disgrace by Terry Butcher, the Coventry manager, who said: "I want my players to act in a professional manner at all times." Peake stands to lose most by being sold as he was in line for

a testimonial next season, his tenth year at the club.

Paul Wilkinson's move to Middlesbrough could fall through today when a Football League transfer tribunal meets to set a value on the Watford forward. Watford rate him at £700,000, but Lennie Lawrence, the Middlesbrough manager, values Wilkinson, aged 26, at barely half that.

Other fees to be set by the tribunal are: Keith Welch (Rochdale to Bristol City) and Robert Painter and Carl Dale (both Chester to Middlesbrough).

Manchester United have paid Brondby 5.75 million crowns (about £500,000) for Peter Schmeichel, the Danish champions' international

goalkeeper. After consulting the police, Wembley officials have decided that no tickets will be on sale at the stadium on Saturday for the Tennants Charity Shield meeting between Arsenal and Tottenham.

The match is not a sell-out. Tickets will be on sale until tomorrow.

Hibernian have signed John Burridge, the goalkeeper, on loan from Newcastle United.

Paris Saint-Germain have signed Valdo, Brazil's World Cup midfielder player, aged 27, from Benfica, of Portugal, for \$4 million (about £2.34 million). Paris failed to persuade Barcelona to release Michael Laudrup, of Denmark. Valdo obtained Portuguese citizenship yesterday.

## Lyle lets Crooked Stick point the way

From MITCHELL PLATT'S GOLF CORRESPONDENT INDIANAPOLIS

SANDY Lyle launches an eleventh-hour attempt to regain his Ryder Cup place when he plays in the 73rd US PGA Championship, which starts here today on the Crooked Stick course.

Lyle's decision to end a ten-year hiatus from the Championship stems from talking to Bernard Gallacher, the European Ryder Cup captain. "Bernard told me he was keen for me to play here and in the next two European events," Lyle said. "I need to do

something to show I'm worthy of a place in the team."

Lyle originally planned to take a long break but he has entered the NM English Open and the German Open, where, in three weeks' time, Gallacher will finalise the team to meet the United States.

"I'm going to have one last determined effort to get on that plane to Kiawah Island," Lyle said. "I know it looks grim but I've decided that the only way I can get in the team is to battle on and find my form."

"My swing is holding up pretty well on the driving range but it's not been so on

the golf course. The most annoying thing is the direction of my shots. In some cases I've hit shots 160 yards apart in practice. It's frustrating."

Lyle now believes that his slump—he has not won for almost three years—began when he decided to change his swing after feeling pain in his left wrist.

"It was just a twinge but I felt I needed to make some adjustments to lessen the stress on the wrist during impact," Lyle said. "I think that started my problems."

Lyle, who won the Open in 1985, was challenging for first place in the Sony world

rankings when he defended the Masters in 1989. He has subsequently slipped to 74th.

Ian Woosnam (first), Jose Maria Olazábal (second), Nick Faldo (third), Severiano Ballesteros (fifth), Bernhard Langer (ninth), Sam Torrance (36th), David Feherty (38th) and Steven Richardson (43rd) complete Europe's challenge.

Meanwhile, Paul Azinger has withdrawn, still not recovered from shoulder surgery, and the Open champion, Ian Baker-Finch, is in doubt, suffering from back spasms.

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